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LANKANS' DAY OUT

Bowlers and Mendis help team begin well

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Master of the chase: Virat Kohli gives vent to his emotions after steering India to an incredible win over Pakistan in an ICC T20 World Cup match in Melbourne on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

Vintage Kohli does it for India in a thriller against Pakistan

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
MELBOURNE

Virat Kohli accelerated India's spectacular chase against Pakistan in the ICC Twenty20 World Cup Super 12 clash here at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. On a pulsating Sunday night, India was struggling at 31 for four while pursuing Pakistan's 159 for eight.

Kohli salvaged the Indian innings and with Hardik Pandya, shared a 113-run fifth-wicket partnership that set the base for a nerve-wracking last over. Sixteen were needed with left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz being pressed into service.

Two dismissals, noballs, wides, some nervous runs and a big hit all combined to gift a rousing climax and in the end, Kohli remained unbeaten on 82, while R. Ashwin scored the winning run. India triumphed by four wickets in a splendid match.

KOHLI FIREWORKS
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Explosives seized after blast kills man in Coimbatore

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

A 25-year-old man was killed in a car explosion in front of a temple in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, on Sunday.

While the police said the blast was possibly triggered by an LPG cylinder in the vehicle, a search at the residence of the deceased – identified as Jameesha Mubin, a resident of Ukkadam here – led to the detection of a huge quantity of explosive materials.

The car exploded in front of the Kottai Easwaran Kovil near the Town Hall in one of the busiest commercial areas in the western city around 4 a.m.

An LPG cylinder Mubin carried in a hatchback exploded, while another one was found unexploded at the blast site.

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Xi Jinping begins third term with key allies on board

Chinese President unveils new leadership. With 6 allies on the Politburo committee, he now has a firmer grip on the ruling Communist Party

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

Chinese leader Xi Jinping began his unprecedented third five-year term on Sunday in even firmer control of the ruling Communist Party after filling the newly announced Politburo Standing Committee (PBSC) with all of his allies.

As many as four allies of Mr. Xi, 69, were on Sunday appointed to the PBSC that was announced after the first meeting of the new Central Committee, which was unveiled on Saturday following the conclusion of the CPC congress.

With two other allies continuing on the PBSC, this marks an unprecedented clean sweep of all seven positions on the all-powerful body, a first in Chinese Communist Party politics where power in the past was shared between different party factions, an arrangement shattered by Mr. Xi.

Mr. Xi introduced the new leadership to the media on Sunday.

New team: Chinese President Xi Jinping introducing the Politburo Standing Committee members to the media on Sunday. REUTERS

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NEARBY

Quota hike: Nod for Ordinance

BENGALURU
The SC/ST (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and Appointment or Posts in the Services Under the State) Ordinance 2022 received assent from Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Sunday.

KARNATAKA
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THE HINDU
greets its readers
on the occasion of
Deepavali
There will be no issue of
THE HINDU dated October 25, 2022
on account of Deepavali festival
Readers can access the online edition at
www.thehindu.com

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 4

Festival spirit

A huge crowd of people buying crackers at a stall put up at Rajarajeshwarinagar, ahead of Deepavali, in Bengaluru on Sunday.
K. MURALI KUMAR

Somanna 'slaps' woman; Congress wants him to be given the sack

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Minister for Housing and Infrastructure Development V. Somanna, who is also in charge of Chamarajanagar district, got embroiled in a controversy for allegedly slapping a woman who approached him seeking redressal of her grievances, triggering a demand from the Congress to sack him from the Cabinet.

The incident - the video of which went viral - occurred at Hangala village in Gundlupet taluk of Chamarajanagar district on Saturday; the victim, however, changed her stance later and started praising the Minister.

There was commotion during the function to distribute land records as a section of women alleged discrepancies in the identification of beneficiaries. One of the women, identified as Kempamma, approached the Minister to narrate her woes. But Mr. Somanna, who was taken aback by the sudden turn of events, slapped her.

A video grab of Housing Minister V. Somanna allegedly slapping a woman at a public event in a village in Gundlupet taluk on Saturday. PTI

The incident was captured by photographers and videographers at the venue.

There were protests in Mysuru, led by a local councillor who alleged that Mr. Somanna had insulted a Scheduled Tribe woman by assaulting her, and demanded that the Minister submit his resignation.

Woman changes stance

Perhaps, nudged by the Minister's supporters in a bid to stem the uproar over the incident, the women subsequently appeared before the media and claimed that Mr. Somanna had not assaulted her and that he had helped her family in distress. She also said that her children benefited from the intervention of the Minister and they 'worship his photograph at home'.

The Congress took to social media to express outrage and called for the sacking of the Minister. It demanded that Mr. Somanna be removed if the BJP government respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Beti Bachao' statement.

Incidentally, a section of farmers had staged a demonstration against Mr. Somanna a few hours earlier in Chamarajanagar town. The Minister was supposed to interact with the farmers to apprise himself of their grievances over the relentless rains and crop damage. But he allegedly arrived two hours late which infuriated the farmers.

Meanwhile, the Minister - refuting reports of slapping the woman on Saturday - said: "I have not done anything wrong. If anyone is hurt, I apologise and regret. No untoward incident took place yesterday."

Speaking to reporters in Chamarajanagar on Sunday, he said: "When the woman was repeatedly coming to the stage, I asked her how many times she would come and told her to wait for 10 minutes. I gestured towards her and told her to wait." Stating that it was not a premeditated act and he respected women, the Minister said he had also experienced poverty and knew the importance of a house. "The woman has been issued title deed this morning."

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

ISRO successfully launches LVM3-M2, its heaviest rocket ever

5,796 In kilogram, the heaviest payload carried by an ISRO rocket ever. The record was created by LVM3-M2 on its maiden commercial mission on Sunday when it placed 36 broadband communication satellites into their intended orbits. The rocket is capable of launching 8,000 kg of payloads into the Low Earth Orbit. PTI

Delhi's air a day before Diwali is the least polluted in seven years

259 Delhi's recorded air quality index (AQI) on Sunday — the lowest for the day before Diwali in seven years. Diwali will be celebrated across the country on Monday. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe". PTI

Cash-strapped Pakistan requests China to rollover debt

6.30 In $ billion, the amount of debt that Pakistan has asked China to rollover as it is maturing in the next eight months: The cash-strapped country is under pressure from western institutions and governments to seek rollover of Chinese debt, currently standing at $26.7 billion including public and publicly guaranteed debt. PTI

Death toll rises from two days of tribal clashes in South Sudan

220 The number of people killed in South Sudan in two days of tribal fighting, making it one of the deadliest bouts of tribal violence in recent years. The unrest added to the woes of the African nation mired in political chaos. Violence in the Blue Nile province, which borders Ethiopia and South Sudan, reignited earlier this month over a land dispute. AP

India Pak T20 match creates new viewership record

2 In crore, the number of viewers who tuned into the India-Pakistan T20 World Cup match on the digital streaming platform, Disney + Hotstar. The game recorded the highest-ever viewership beating the previous record of 1.4 crore recorded between the two teams at the Asia Cup recently. The match was also screened on the screens of PVR and Inox which reported large influx of people. PTI

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The CCI's ₹1,300 crore fine on Google

Why did the Competition Commission of India impose such a huge fine on the tech giant? How is the Alphabet owned company allegedly violating its position especially with regard to the Android mobile device ecosystem? Is this the first probe against Google in India?

EXPLAINER

Diksha Munjal

The story so far:
The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed a provisional fine of ₹1,337.76 crore on Alphabet-owned Google for "abusing its dominant position" in markets related to the Android mobile device ecosystem.

How did Google violate the competition law in India?
The CCI, the country's competition watchdog is empowered under the Competition Act, 2002, to check whether companies especially large tech companies are not eliminating healthy competition in the market and creating a monopoly. The current case by CCI against Google started in 2019 and since then the regulator has examined various practices of the tech giant with respect to relevant markets.

The first is regarding the Android operating system (OS). All smartphones need an OS to run applications and programs and one of the most prominent OS is Android which was acquired by Google in 2005. According to Counterpoint research, 97% of India's 600 million smartphones are powered by Google's Android OS. Google operates and manages the Android OS and licenses other Google proprietary applications such as Chrome and Play Store through it. Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) or smartphone companies then use this OS and Google apps on their mobile phones. While the Android source code is openly accessible and covers the basic features of a smartphone, it does not include Google's proprietary applications. To use these applications, manufacturers have to enter into agreements with Google that govern their rights and obligations such as the Mobile Application Distribution Agreement (MADA), the Anti-fragmentation Agreement (AFA) etc. The CCI held that through these restrictions in agreements, Google makes sure that the manufacturers who wished to use Google apps had to use Google's version of Android.

In troubled waters: The Google Headquarters in the U.S. GETTY IMAGES

Secondly, Google is the dominant player in the app store market for Android OS worldwide (except China). According to the EU, the Google Play Store accounts for more than 90% of apps downloaded on Android devices globally. The CCI held that through the mandatory pre-installation of the Google Suite (which includes Play Store), consumers did not have the option of side-loading or downloading apps outside of the play store. Third is the company's dominance in the general internet search market and the non-OS specific browser market (meaning engines like Chrome, Firefox, etc.). As of last year, Google has a 92% share in the global search engine market. Therefore, by having Revenue Sharing Agreements with mobile manufacturers for its services, Google was able to "secure exclusivity" for its search services to the "total exclusion of competitors". The CCI said that these agreements with OEMs guaranteed Google continuous access to search queries of mobile users, helping not only in protecting its advertisement revenue but also in reaping the network effects through "continuous improvement of services, to the exclusion of competitors". This was also compounded by making Google the default search browser in Android smartphones. Finally, due to Google's agreements with manufacturers, another of its revenue-earning apps – Youtube, the CCI said, gained a significant edge over competitors in the online video hosting platforms market. The mention of Google's antitrust practices with regard to Youtube was the distinguishing factor between the CCI probe and the EU probe of Google in 2018.

What has CCI told Google to change ?
Apart from the "cease and desist" order against Google for indulging in anti-competitive practices, the CCI has directed it to take certain measures with regard to the Android OS ecosystem. Some of the major directions include – that smartphone makers should be allowed to choose which of Google's proprietary apps they want to install, that the licensing of Play Store to manufacturers should not be linked with requirements to pre-install Google search services or any other Google apps, that Google should allow users to choose their default search engine for all search entry points etc. The CCI also noted that there were "glaring inconsistencies" in the revenue data presented by Google and gave it 30 days to provide the requisite financial details and supporting documents.

What are the other antitrust suits?
Google is already facing two other antitrust probes by the CCI. In June 2021, the Commission ordered a probe into allegations that Google had abused its dominant position with Android in India's smart television market and in November 2020, the CCI had initiated a probe to look into allegations that Google abused its dominant position to push its payments system. Google also faces three probes each in the U.S. and the EU. The EU suits have altogether imposed fines totalling around $8 billion on Google.

THE GIST

- The CCI, the country's competition watchdog is empowered under the Competition Act, 2002, to check whether companies especially large tech companies are not eliminating healthy competition in the market and creating a monopoly.
- The CCI said that due to Google's various agreements with manufacturers, one of its major revenue-earning apps, Youtube, gained a significant edge over competitors in the online video hosting platforms market. The mention of Google's antitrust practices with regard to Youtube was the distinguishing factor between the CCI probe and the EU probe of Google in 2018.
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What is the Dharavi redevelopment project?

What is the estimated cost for re-vamping one of Asia's biggest cluster of slums? How many residential and commercial buildings are there in Dharavi?

Sonam Saigal

The story so far:
On October 18, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Maharashtra's deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis signed a 'definitive agreement' for handing over 47.5 acres of Railway land in Dadar for the Dharavi Redevelopment Project. The agreement, which was inked between the Ministry of Railways' Rail Land Development Authority and the Dharavi Redevelopment Project Authority, sets the foundation to redevelop one of the largest slum clusters in the world. The Ministry is set to get 0.21% of the profits.

Will Mumbai be slum-free?
As per the Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) scheme, 48.35% of Mumbai's population live in slums. And of Mumbai's total area about 24% is occupied by slums. According to a survey carried out by the Maharashtra Social Housing and Action League, there are approximately 49,643 slum dwellers (39,208 residential and 10,435 commercial) and 9,522 renewal tenements in chawls (6,981 are residential and 2,541 are commercial) in Dharavi.

In 2017, Mr. Fadnavis, then Chief Minister, had said that "Making Mumbai slum-free is part of affordable housing for all". He had said that "...the State government would create 22 lakh affordable houses to cater to the urban and rural areas in Maharashtra....". The previous Maha Vikas Aghadi government also made moves toward development but was unable to acquire railway land from the Centre for the project.

According to S.V. Srinivas, CEO of the Dharavi Redevelopment Project, of the more than 600 acres of Dharavi, the project covers roughly 240 hectares.

How much will redevelopment cost?
The cost of the project is estimated to have gone up more than six times from ₹4,000 crore in 2004 to ₹26,000 crore in 2019. Now it is estimated to be around ₹28,000 crore. On October 1, the Maharashtra government invited global tenders, the base price of which is ₹1,600 crore. The State government is looking at a joint venture wherein they will hold a 20% stake while the selected lead bidder will hold a majority 80% stake. Eight developers attended the pre-bid meeting, including the Adani Group. As per the announcement made by Mr. Srinivas, the bidding process is expected to close on October 31.

What does the project entail?
This is the fourth time in the last 18 years that the Maharashtra government is attempting to re-build Asia's largest slum cluster which is home to close to 58,000 families and around 12,000 commercial establishments. The redevelopment plan is an integrated development approach of the residential, commercial, and industrial with a floor space index of over 4. The SRA and the lead bidder will form a SPV, (a special purpose vehicle, an entity formed for a specific purpose of infrastructure and rehabilitation) and along with the Dharavi Redevelopment Authority will execute Phase 1 of the project which includes redevelopment of specific areas comprising slum and non-slum sections, buildings and chawls. The project includes development of "necessary on-site and off-site infrastructure, including water supply, sewage disposal, electricity supply, piped gas system within seven years from the date of a commencement certificate for the first phase."

When will the project be finished?
The Maharashtra government is highly optimistic about completing the entire process of rehabilitation and redevelopment in seven years starting next year. However, the companies who have shown interest have said that the period is 'insufficient' and seek atleast 10-12 years for the entire process to be completed.

THE GIST

- On October 18, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Maharashtra's deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis signed a 'definitive agreement' for handing over 47.5 acres of Railway land in Dadar for the Dharavi Redevelopment Project.
- The cost of the project is estimated to have gone up by almost six times from ₹4,000 crore in 2004 to ₹26,000 crore in 2019. Now it is estimated to be around ₹28,000 crore.
- Phase 1 of the project includes redevelopment of specified areas comprising slum and non-slum sections, buildings and chawls.

INBRIEF

Two arrested; 10 stolen bikes recovered

The Wilson Garden police have arrested two bike lifters and recovered 10 stolen bikes, together worth ₹5.5 lakh, from them.

The accused, Mohammed Mehraz and Sheikh Arzan, were caught while they were trying to sell one of the stolen bikes.

The accused would move around residential areas, identify parked bikes outside the houses and steal them, the police said.

The duo has been taken into custody and investigations are on, said the police.

Jalahalli residents protest against deteriorating roads

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Armed with placards whilst chanting slogans, the residents of Jalahalli held a protest on Sunday at the Prestige Kensington Gardens to voice their dismay at the deterioration of the condition of roads in the city.

"We are trying to bring an impact and make the issues of citizens visible to the authorities. This may be a small initiative, but it may create a ripple effect in other areas of the city as well," said Padma Dhayanand, an IT professional.

The protesters cited potholes as a major contributor to road accidents. They also said senior citizens and children are more prone to accidents, and the current situation makes them more vulnerable. Apart from accidents, problems while commuting to work and prolonged waiting hours were other issues that were reported.

"The condition of the roads in Bengaluru has been the worst ever. Majority of them are lined with potholes. Senior citizens walking using a stick have been at greater risk. Many people have lost their lives in other areas of the city. Every day, people face problems while driving. One of our residents has been bedridden after meeting with an accident while avoiding a pothole. The authorities just try to do a little bit of patchwork over the pothole, but that doesn't even last a few weeks," said a resident, who requested anonymity.

"We've written to the authorities multiple times, but all they say is that they will do the work after the monsoon. This has been their response every year, but the condition of the roads remains the same," said another protester.

Bad roads affecting people's spine health

Most of the people who are suffering from spinal and cervical pain are either two-wheeler riders or those who commute in autos, say doctors

PERILOUS PITS

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Roads with potholes, coupled with unscientific speed breakers, are taking a toll on people's backs, say doctors. FILE PHOTO

When 25-year-old Ahmed Faraz lost control of his bike when he tried to dodge a pothole in Bengaluru, his 67-year-old mother riding pillion ended up with a lumbar vertebral compression fracture.

Doctors at a private hospital, where she was treated, said she was fortunate to recover with conservative treatment and did not require surgery.

"Spine compression fractures are serious, and they can cause painful or debilitating symptoms that interfere with the person's quality of life. Women pillion riders, especially those wearing a sari and sitting on one side are at a higher risk of getting injured," said Ravikumar Mukartihal, consultant orthopaedic and robotic joint replacement surgeon at SPARSH hospital, who treated the woman.

There is a rise in the number of people with spinal and cervical pain, Dr. Mukartihal said and added that most of them are either two-wheeler riders or those who commute in autorickshaws. "Roads with potholes, coupled with unscientific speed breakers, are taking a toll on people's backs. Potholes, along with a sedentary lifestyle, are a deadly combination," he said.

N.K. Venkataramana, founder chairman and director, Brains Super-Speciality Hospital, said potholes are notorious, particularly at night as well as during the rains in causing falls and accidents. "Many two-wheeler accidents are caused due to the potholes. In addition, people commuting in four-wheelers too can develop back pain, disc prolapse, and the elderly with osteoporosis can even have a fracture of the spine. Besides, pre-existing spine problems can also get aggravated," he said.

"The second common man-made disaster is to have road humps of different sizes and at unexpected locations. They are equally dangerous for two-wheeler riders as well as drivers of other vehicles," the doctor said.

Ramachandran G., spine surgeon and consultant at Sakra World Hospital, said most of the working population of Bengaluru is hubbed on to the IT sector. "Their work involves long hours of sitting, inactivity, and unnoticed slouch in the posture. The city roads add to this most common problem of backache," he said.

"Daily commute using public or private transport on potholed roads puts an added axial loading – patients' own weight comes on to the most dependent part, the lower back and it predisposes to disc bulge, muscle spasm, and ultimately sore back," the doctor explained.

Precautions

Advising precautions, Dr. Mukartihal said the vehicle must be well-serviced and maintained with proper shock absorption and cushioning. "If the shock absorption is good, at least 30% of the impact of the load will be transferred to the vehicle," he said. " For any accident, the individual has to receive medical care as early as possible," the doctor added.

READER'S MAIL

On conversion of trains

Sir, – Apropos to South Western Railway deciding to convert two pair of trains – Rajya Rani and Malgudi Express (16557/58 and 16023/24, respectively) into 'superfast' trains from October 26 (*The Hindu*, October 23). One could not understand the rationale behind the decision.

Is this to just mop-up revenue by increasing the fare by ₹15 to ₹20 or is it a passenger-friendly move? SWR needs to clarify whether or not these trains will run on the lines of Wodeyar Express with limited stops and schedule.

Passengers travelling between Bengaluru and Mysuru are fed up with the schedule as most of of the trains arrive on the outskirts of Bengaluru on time but take a long time to reach the last station. "Operational reasons" is the stock reply one gets from the authorities for this delay.

For example, Chamundi Express leaving Mysuru at 6.45 a.m. reaches Kengeri Station at 8.40 a.m but arrives at Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Bengaluru Station only around 9.45 a.m. Authorities should look into this.

N. Nanjundaswamy,
Bengaluru

Footbridge is in a bad shape

Sir, – The footbridge across K.G. Road opposite Nartaki cinema is in a precarious condition. The plaster and concrete have fallen off at many places, exposing the iron rods inside. Even the railings and steps are in a bad shape.

Many people, however, continue to use the footbridge unaware of the precarious condition it is in. It is surprising that the condition of the bridge has not come to the attention of officials.

The footbridge has to be repaired immediately or a steel footbridge needs to be built here like elsewhere in the city as this is a busy area. A new bridge will not only improve the aesthetics of the area, but also instil confidence in the public who regularly use the bridge.

Raghunathan K.S.,
Bengaluru

Readers can write to letters.bangalore@thehindu.co.in

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works :

E-Tender Notice No.: Y/E.29/2022-23/26
Dated : 13.10.2022

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Replacement of overaged Signaling gears at Sagarakatte, Krishnarajanagar, Hosa Agrahara, Akkihebbalu, Mandagere, Hole Narsipur & Mavinkere Stations over Mysuru Division in Mysuru - Hassan Section.	Rs. 51,51,598/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 04-11-2022**

E-Tender Notice No. Y/E.29/2022-23/27
Dated : 15-10-2022

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Electrical piece work (Zonal Work) for SSE/E/HRR Jurisdiction for a period of one year.	Rs. 17,00,000/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 07-11-2022**

E-Tender Notice No. Y/E.29/2022-23/28
Dated : 15-10-2022

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Electrical piece work (Zonal Work) for SSE/E/SMET Jurisdiction for a period of one year.	Rs. 17,00,000/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 07-11-2022**

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Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
PUB/428/AAS/PRB/SWR/2022-23 **Mysuru**
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

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Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Unloading & Dragging of Traction Power Transformer at different Traction Substation and Digitization, Supply, Fixing of sectioning diagram board, small board, big boards from Birur - Talaguppa in Mysuru Division over South Western Railway in connection to the RE work of Gr.295 (Birur - Talaguppa).	Rs. 19,12,957.32

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Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
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PUB/429/AAS/PRB/SWR/2022-23 **Mysuru**
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. Y/E.29/2022-23/29
Dated : 19-10-2022
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites Tenders for the following works:

Description of work	Approx. Value
Provision of Solar Plants System at Service Building over Mysuru Division Phase I and Provision of Solar Plants System at Railway Stations - Phase II.	Rs. 2,56,49,712/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 10-11-2022**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
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CACHE

False alarm: The new iPhone 14 models on display at an Apple event on the campus of Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, California on September 7. AP

How a new feature from the iPhone 14 line-up is creating false emergencies

What is the feature from the new iPhone collection which will enable calls to emergency assistance services if the user has had a fall? What have been the complaints regarding this new update? How does this feature work and can one disable it in certain situations?

Nabeel Ahmed

The story so far:

On September 7, in its "Far Out" event Apple released the iPhone 14 line-up. Along with other updates, the new phones got a feature the company called 'Crash Detection'. The feature makes the phone detect when the user has had a fall, after which it could make a call to emergency assistance services. The feature is also designed to share important information like the location of the user with assistance services. However, reports have emerged in the U.S. of the new iPhones calling emergency assistance services when users are on a rollercoaster ride.

How does the Crash Detection feature work?

The crash detection feature, available throughout the iPhone 14 line-up, makes use of the dual-core accelerometers, the dynamic range gyroscope, the barometer, the GPS and the microphone. These provide critical information used to detect ambient changes. The information collected includes G-force measurements, changes in cabin pressure, sudden changes in speed and detection of loud noises.

According to Apple, this information is used by its motion algorithms to determine whether the device has been in a crash or not. Apple states that its algorithms have been trained with over a million hours of real-world driving and crash record data to provide accurate results. Upon detecting a crash, the feature brings up an emergency services call interface on the iPhone. The interface can be used to dismiss the call within 20 seconds. If that is not done, it is designed to call for assistance and share the user's latitudinal and longitudinal location with an approximate search radius. In case the device is connected with a vehicle using CarPlay, emergency calls activated by the vehicle will be directed through the iPhone.

Crash detection is also available on the Apple Watch and emergency calls are routed through it if users have it on when in a crash. The feature works only when devices have an active network connection. The crash detection feature, thus makes use of the data collected by different hardware features to determine the intensity of a crash and contact emergency assistance services.

What could be causing the iPhone to dial 911 on rollercoasters?

So far numerous reports of the iPhone calling emergency services when taken on rollercoasters have emerged from across the U.S. In Kings Island, an amusement park, crash detection triggered calls to emergency services on at least six different occasions.

It seems that the combination of quick acceleration, loud ambient sound, and sudden changes in pressure, all experienced on a rollercoaster, are triggering the crash detection feature. And while all these changes are experienced in a car crash as well, Apple's algorithms that have apparently been designed to react to these changes are unable to differentiate between a car crash and a roller coaster ride. This seems to be the main culprit behind the accidental triggering of the crash detection feature.

Apple executives stated that G-forces are the biggest factor in determining a car crash. Rapid changes and high G-force experienced on a rollercoaster may be behind the accidental triggers, according to a report by *TechCrunch*. The executives, however, said that determining a car crash is a complex process and that there is "no silver bullet" when looking at reliable indicators of a crash. Therefore, determining the exact factor behind the accidental triggers might not be easy. The report also reveals that the iPhone 14 line-up can use satellite SOS to route emergency calls when active network connection is not available. The feature, however, is only available in the U.S. and Canada for now.

How does one avoid accidental triggers?

The simple solution to avoid accidental calls to emergency services is to not take the devices with crash detection features on rollercoasters or other rides in an amusement park. But, as that might not always be possible, users can either switch off their devices or simply put them on airplane mode. This would ensure that even if crash detection is activated it will not be able to make calls due to the absence of an active mobile connection. Users can also disable the "call after serious crash" feature that can be found in the emergency SOS settings in the iPhone 14 line-up. Another possible solution could be geo-tagging amusement parks to disable crash detection in certain areas. However, this solution will need a software upgrade from Apple.

Accidental calls to emergency services is not a new problem. Features allowing users to make 911 calls in case of an emergency has been baked into Android and iOS software for some time now. However, their reliability has been somewhat questionable. ^

Reports have emerged of Pixel phones unable to make emergency service calls in the U.S. and Australia. In December 2021, reports emerged of Pixel phones getting stuck dialling 911 emergency services. At the time, the problem reportedly originated in the power button which led to the devices rebooting and then dialling 911. Apple's iPhones had faced similar problems previously in 2018, when reports of accidental calls to emergency services were revealed. Earlier devices from Apple starting from the iPhone X had also faced the problem when long pressing the power and volume buttons would call emergency services. After reports of several accidental calls, the company added an alert that would notify users before making the call.

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Let's discuss the news over a cup of tea

I know you are the apple of his eye but even so, I don't think he will forgive you for photobombing these pictures!

S. Upendran

"Did you inform the principal about the problem the students are having with the new teacher?"

"If I do, I'll be in serious trouble."

"Why would you be in serious trouble?"

"The principal doesn't like it when someone complains about the new teacher. She's the apple of his eye."

"Apple of his eye? What are you talking about? How can you get an apple..."

"When you say that your sister is the apple of your eye, what you're suggesting is that she's someone you like very much."

"That she's my favourite; someone I absolutely adore."

"I guess you could say that! You can use this expression with objects as well. *Raj's car continues to be the apple of his eye.* What about you? Are you the apple of your mother's eye?"

"No, my sister is the apple of my mother's eye. Tell me, what's the connection between an apple and an eye? I mean, is the..."

"In the past, people believed that an apple looked like the pupil – the shape, that is. In fact, for some time, the words 'apple' and 'pupil' were used synonymously."

"I see. Without the pupil, we wouldn't be able to see. Sight is something everyone values. I guess that's why the idiom 'the apple of one's eye' means something that is greatly treasured or valued."

"Very good!"

"Thank you. Why haven't you sent any of the photographs that you took at last week's birthday party?"

"They're not worth sending. Most of them had been photobombed by someone or the other."

"Photobombed? What does it mean?"

"It's when someone walks in front of the person whose photograph is being taken. The unwanted person may appear in the background as well. In the process, the individual ruins the picture. A person may do this deliberately or accidentally."

"Many of my friends do it intentionally. They usually have a funny expression on their face when they do this."

"My neighbour's irritating kid photobombed most of the pictures I took of my grandmother."

"I thought I had taken a beautiful photograph of the morning sun. But unfortunately, I got photobombed by a couple of crows."

"So, did you talk to your friends about the cricket match?"

"Yes, we discussed about it. But I don't think they're really interested in playing cricket in this weather."

"I see. You generally 'discuss' something. You don't 'discuss about' it."

"But I've heard a lot of people say, 'discuss about'."

"It's true some people say it. But it's frowned upon. Let's discuss the matter over a cup of coffee."

upendrankye@gmail.com

THE DAILY QUIZ

October 24 marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the United Nations Charter. A quiz on the day observed as UN Day

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1
Which city is considered the birthplace of the UN Charter and who is said to have coined the name United Nations?

QUESTION 2
The UN has six official languages. Three are Chinese, English, and French. Name the other languages.

QUESTION 3
What connects the cities of Geneva, Vienna, and Nairobi?

QUESTION 4
In which of the six main organs of the UN do all the 193 Member States have equal representation i.e. 'one nation, one vote'?

QUESTION 5
Including the incumbent António Guterres, the UN has had nine Secretaries-General. Name the only one from the Americas.

QUESTION 6
What commences on the Tuesday of the third week in September, counting from the first week that contains at least one working day?

QUESTION 7
Name the five permanent members of the Security Council who have the power of veto

QUESTION 8
On the occasion of the 25th anniversary, which eminent British-American poet wrote 'Hymn to the United Nations' that had music by maestro Pablo Casals?

Visual question:
Identify this former Secretary-General and what is the significance of the cheque that he is holding. UN PHOTO

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the October 21 edition of the daily quiz: 1. A conservation reserve has been notified in Palk Bay for this marine animal. **Ans: Dugong**
2. The slender loris does this before digging into a prey's colony. **Ans: Urinate on its limbs to mimic the chemical profile of its prey**
3. This endangered animal has 52 designated reserves across the country. **Ans: Tiger**
4. This species of finch gets its name from a city in the country. **Ans: Green avadavat or green munia (Amandava formosa)**
5. This is the only floating park in the world. **Ans: Keibul Lamjao National Park**
6. This bovid is the State animal of both Goa and Bihar. **Ans: Gaur**
Visual: The local name for this herbivore found at the Dachigam National Park. **Ans: Hangul (Kashmir stag)**

Early Birds: Mrinal Shrivastav| Komal Yadav| Amrutha R.S.| Ravindra Kumar Sahu

Compiled by V. V. Ramanan

Word of the day

Chicanery:
the use of tricks to deceive someone

Synonyms: shenanigan, wile, trickery, guile

Usage: *He might be popular but he is not above using chicanery to win votes.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/chicanerypro

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EDUCATIONPLUS

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For that perfect thesis

Six steps that will help students in thesis writing

Thesis-writing can be a daunting task if the Ph.D. student does not know the mechanics of writing research. Here are six essential steps that will help you complete your paper in time.

The secret to complete your dissertation is to read, make notes and define the purpose of the proposed research before you begin.

Standard content and writing

A good thesis needs standard content, good writing, and an attractive presentation. It must be original; conceived and written by you. A plagiarism tracker can easily expose copied work and cost you the degree and lead to a demotion. Standard content results from reading scholarly books and research papers. The key word here is scholarly, not journalistic. Statements must be fact-based and supported by sources. Your thesis or argument must be new and present relevant content that adds to existing research. Your arguments must be logical, well-written, and communicate each point/subpoint effectively. The dissertation must be typed neatly, formatted, and proofread thoroughly to prevent mistakes and spelling errors. Together, these elements make a good thesis.

Choosing a topic

For this, search for similar theses on the Internet and find a topic that has a gap. Look for important sources (books and research papers) on Google Scholar, in libraries and e-journals. Do not depend wholly on the Internet for your research material, as this could lack scholarly rigour. You should have access to a minimum of 20 reputable major sources. As you read, remain focused on the selected topic. Be prepared to change or re-define it, if you discover it has been already been examined.

Limiting the problem

This does not imply deleting important information or presenting partial evidence. It means narrowing down your investigation. For example, a thesis-length subject could be "Pests are affecting crops in X district and causing an annual loss of ₹ Y" rather than the State or the entire country. Taking a large area for research is a common mistake Ph.D. students make. Limiting the problem will help you write a tightly organised dissertation and manage time.

Writing the thesis sentence

This identifies the purpose of your investigation and should be around 20 words or less. It is a positive, declarative statement. But it is not the hypothesis, though it may look like on.

A hypothesis suggests uncertainty of outcome; a thesis sentence shows you can prove the outcome.

You should write it after your preliminary reading is over. For instance:

Hypothesis: I wish to examine whether pests are damaging crops in district X for N reasons and causing an annual loss of ₹ Y.

Thesis sentence: I have examined the reasons pests are damaging crops in district X and causing a loss of ₹ Y annually.

Writing the thesis sentence gives you a road map for your reading and writing. Once you are clear about your purpose, it is easy to look for supportive evidence. It also helps to make a good outline and design your proposal with clarity and impress examiners. However, it takes time for the thesis sentence to crystallise because you have to articulate your intent precisely.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Making an outline

The most important aspect of thesis writing, thisprevents you from getting lost in irrelevant details and ensures an even division into chapters, sections and subsections.

An outline helps identify the problems in your writing plan well before you write. It helps detect the gaps and fix them in advance, and ensure it is evidence-backed and structurally well-balanced.

Time management

Spend 60% time on reading, and writing the first draft, 20% on fact-checking editing, and rewriting and the remaining 20% on typing, proofreading and binding. Make notes and record the details of your references as you read. Do not leave this to the last as it can delay submission.

The writer is former Professor of English at IIT Bombay. Email ceogiit@gmail.com

On the career track

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This career counselling column may help

OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

I am pursuing M.D. BioChemistry from a reputed college in India. I want to relocate abroad after this. What are the options available?Also, are there any super-specialty courses in India? Dr. Parvathy

Dear Dr. Parvathy,

The prospects after M.D. Biochemistry is huge. You can explore options such as Assistant Professor, Clinical Biochemistry; Tutor Demonstrator, Physiology Biochemistry Anatomy; Lab Technician, Biochemistry; Customer Lab Service Associate, Microbiology Biochemistry; and Research Scientist, Analytical Biochemistry. There are several opportunities across hospitals, agricultural research services, biotechnology firms, chemical industry, chemicals manufacturing companies, food institutes, industrial laboratories, medical research, medical laboratories, petroleum and pharma companies along with seed and nursery companies. You could also consider teaching, professorship and consultancy.

I am a Class 12 Humanities student from a middle-class family. As I need to consider finances, I thought of doing a B.A. (Hons) English and sitting for the competitive exams. What is the scope of the course apart from the CSE? Samprikta

Dear Samprikta,

There is a lot you can do after B.A. English (Hons) beyond CSE. The programme will help you gain in-depth knowledge of the language and English literature. You can look at joining a PR firm, social media marketing companies, do content writing, or become a copywriter, teach, event management, or get a marketing job and/or become a subject expert.

I am a law student from a National Law University in India. I am interested in environmental law and related issues and planned to pursue an LLM in the U.K. However, after some research, I am wondering if a Master's in Environmental Policy would be a better option. Akshay

Dear Akshay,

Environmental law is about those aspects of the law that provide protection to the environment and influence environmental principles and helps management of forests, minerals, fisheries, and other natural resources.

Environmental policy, on the other hand, helps design policies (by the government or corporation or other public or private organisations) regarding the effects of human activities on the environment, particularly those that prevent and/or reduce harmful effects. So there is an overlap between the two but what do you enjoy? One prescribes rules and guidelines for the welfare of society as a formal document and the other ensures what a government can do and achieve, for society as a whole. Try and identify courses that cover both Environmental Policy and Law. Law is administered through the judiciary and policy is administered by the government itself.

I finished my B.Sc. Physics last year. But having been average at academics and having had a talk with my parents, I am now preparing for the CAT. I've loved science since childhood and changing the field of study bothers me. Second, I've never given a competitive exam and am unsure if I'm capable of it. Third, all my peers are doing well. I feel stuck. Akshat

Dear Akshat,

This is your story and your journey! Wish your friends well and get on with your own narrative! What are your strengths? Meet a qualified, competent career counsellor and get a career and a personality profile done to understand your interest fields, personality and aptitude before you take the CAT. You might need to join classes, prepare and practise to feel confident to take the exam. Don't worry about what will happen. If you are passionate about this, you will make it happen!

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line 'Off the edge'.

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Application: Online b4s.in/edge/LHVP2

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Under the CSR Project on Education and Livelihood of Kotak Mahindra Group Companies, Kotak Education Foundation aims to help meritorious girl students from underprivileged sections to pursue professional graduation courses.
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Applicants must have obtained at least 60% marks (80% for students undergoing coaching) in the previous class or board exams (Note: No minimum marks required for Students with Disabilities).
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Courtesy: buddy4study.com

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Sd/-,
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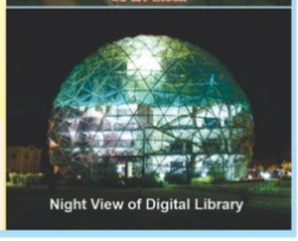
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Prof. K. P. Narasimha Murthy
President

Sri. A. R. Acharya
General Secretary

BU accident victim dies after battling for life for 13 days

On October 10, a BMTC bus ran over her after she fell while boarding it on the campus; students had resorted to protests for several days after the accident, demanding, among other things, a ban the entry of private vehicles on the campus

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After battling for life for 13 days at a private hospital, Shilpa Shri, 21, a postgraduate student of Bangalore University (BU), succumbed to the injuries she had sustained in a road accident.

The deceased was run over by a Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus after a fall while boarding the bus on October 10.

A file photo of Bangalore University students staging a protest on the campus.

After the accident, students of the university resorted to protests that went on for several days demanding justice for Shilpa Shri. Protesters had also demanded that authorities ban the entry of private vehicles on the campus and implement other road safety measures.

Lokesh Ram, a student leader of the BU, said Shilpa Shri succumbed to injuries on Sunday morning.

"Due to severe injuries, she had undergone multiple surgeries. Around 4.30 a.m on Sunday, she succumbed to the injuries. We demand that the State government provide ₹1.5 crore to the family of Shilpa Shri and a government job to the dependent family member," he said.

The deceased is a native of Bangarpet in Kolar district.

After the students' protests, the authorities had promised to implement road safety measures that included removal of unscientific humps and installation of signage and street lights. The police had announced that enforcement drives would be intensified on the campus to check violations. The matter of banning entry of private vehicles on the campus was referred to the State government seeking directions.

Prices of flowers shoot up for Deepavali and those of fruits, vegetables remain stable

Cinderella Jane S. & Priyal Mishra
BENGALURU

With the supply chain slowly getting corrected, the prices of fruits and vegetables have remained stable for this year's Deepavali, with a few exceptions. However, the prices of flowers started shooting up last week itself and reached their highest during the weekend.

As many are looking to celebrate the festival with much grandeur this year, the demand for fresh commodities in the markets remains high.

From ₹30 to ₹40 per *mola* last week and ₹250 per kg, the price of jasmine has touched ₹75 per *mola* and ₹1,250 per kg this weekend. While varieties of roses are being sold for ₹350 to ₹400 a kg, chrysanthemums (sevantige) are being sold for ₹200 a kg.

The prices of fruits such as apples, bananas, and pomegranates have gone up for the festival. The *yelakki* variety bananas are being sold for ₹35 a kg and other varieties for ₹40 to ₹50 a kg. Apples are priced at ₹150 to ₹200 a kg and pomegranates ₹160 to ₹180.

Vegetable traders are expecting good sales during Deepavali as the next big festival is a few months away. They said that even though there is no major hike in the price, the higher demand will balance the scales. As of Sunday, the price of beans was ₹60 a kg whereas carrots were being sold at ₹70.

Shopkeepers bursting colourful crackers at Rajarajeshwarinagar in Bengaluru Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Tomorrow's partial solar eclipse to last for 45 minutes in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A partial solar eclipse will occur on Tuesday. In Bengaluru, the eclipse will begin at 5.12 p.m. and last for 45 minutes. However, only about 10% of the eclipse will be visible.

"The solar eclipse of October 25 is a partial one, visible over India, except for a large area of the North-eastern States. It is a late afternoon eclipse. Its beginning is visible from India, but the sun sets at most places before the eclipse is over," said R.C. Kapoor, former professor, Indian Institute of Astrophysics. According to the Ministry of Earth Science statement, the eclipsed sun should not be viewed with the naked eye, even for a very short time. "It will cause permanent damage to the eyes, leading to blindness even when the moon covers most portions of the sun. The safe technique to observe the solar eclipse is by either using a filter like aluminized Mylar, black polymer, welding glass of shade number 14 or by making projection of the sun's image on a whiteboard by telescope," it said.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, OCT. 24		
RISE	06:11	SET 17:56
RISE	05:02	SET 17:16
TUESDAY, OCT. 25		
RISE	06:11	SET 17:56
RISE	05:54	SET 17:57
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 26		
RISE	06:12	SET 17:56
RISE	06:48	SET 18:42

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	23
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	28	19

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C A dry weather to prevail. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night remains pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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INBRIEF

Newly married teacher found dead in apartment

A 25-year-old newly married private school teacher was found dead under mysterious circumstances at her apartment in Puttenahalli in Bengaluru on Saturday.

The family of the deceased, Niharika, accused her husband and his family of killing her after harassing her repeatedly.

According to the police, Niharika got married to Karthik. It was a love marriage and both families were opposed to it initially.

Soon after the marriage, Karthik's family allegedly started harassing her. Unable to bear the harassment, Niharika returned home during Dasara holidays. However, Karthik got Niharika back home recently and promised to take care of her, the police said.

On Saturday, Niharika called her sister to inform her that she had been harassed again. Inquiries revealed that Niharika was harassed over a trivial row about a school programme she wanted to attend, the police said.

Shivalingaradhya, Niharika's father, accused Karthik and his family of killing her. Based on a complaint, the police have registered a case against the accused, charging them under dowry harassment, abetment to suicide.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)

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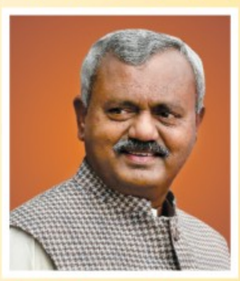
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INBRIEF

Kittur Utsav rescheduled for today after Mamani's death

The Kittur Utsav that was scheduled to be launched on Sunday by the State government has been postponed to Monday following the death of Deputy Speaker Vishwanath Chandrashekar Mamani on Sunday. According to Water Resources Minister Govind Karjol, the BJP has also decided to postpone the ongoing Jana Sankalpa Yatra, which is being jointly led by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa.

JD(S) national executive to be held from October 27

The two-day national executive of Janata Dal (Secular) is scheduled from October 27 in Bengaluru. The former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda is expected to be unanimously re-elected as the party president on October 28 if no other nominations are received, party sources said.

Rahul accuses BJP of going against Basavanna's teachings

The State, which remained a model for the country, is now infamous as a 40% commission government and is a fitting example for 'suit-boot ki sarkar', he says; Siddaramaiah thanks Rahul for making Bharat Jodo Yatra a people's movement

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On the day that the Bharath Jodo Yatra completed its Karnataka leg, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi thanked the people of the State for participating with him, and accused the Bharatiya Janata Party of going against the teachings of Basavanna.

"Guru Basavanna taught not to steal, kill, lie, or show anger and intolerance to others. The BJP has done exactly opposite of his teachings in Karnataka," he said in a statement released on Sunday as the yatra completed 22 days in Karnataka and moved to Telangana.

"The State, which remained a model for the country, is now infamous as a 40% commission government and is a fitting example for suit-boot ki sarkar. Communal harmony and public sector development has been affected. Economic development has been paralysed. The State that remained peaceful has been used as a laboratory to fan hatred and bad governance," he said.

A file photo of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with ex-servicemen during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Raichur. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Gandhi said disadvantaged sections of society and minorities faced rising tide of hatred and violence while languages, diversity culture and history of the State are being decimated and distorted.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah on Sunday said that the Bharath Jodo Yatra has given a fillip to fight against dictatorship, bad governance, and communal polarisation.

"The yatra has also helped party leaders and workers to understand the pulse of the people better. The yatra may have left Karnataka, but the awareness that it created, unity that it brought in and hopes that it has raised will help us in our fight to protect democracy," Mr. Siddaramaiah said in a note on the day the yatra completed its Karnataka leg.

Thanking Mr. Gandhi for making it a people's movement and not restricting the yatra to a party programme, the former Chief Minister said that the yatra has also created awareness about who Mr. Gandhi, who has been vilified through character assassination, is.

The KPCC also released a booklet on Sunday, and accused the BJP of peddling lies and spending hundreds of crores to run the organised lying factory. "This yatra was against the BJP's peddled lies. Ever since India attained independence, RSS-backed governments have been attempting to dilute the Constitution and working against national anthem and national flag covertly and sometimes overtly," it said.

Ordinance to hike quota for SC/STs gets Governor's nod

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and Appointment or Posts in the Services Under the State) Ordinance 2022 that seeks to increase reservation quota to SC/ST communities received assent from Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Sunday.

The Ordinance seeks to enhance reservation to SCs from 15% to 17% and STs from 3% to 7% in proportion to their population. This will take the total reservation in the State to 56%, and follows the decision of an all-party meeting held recently where the BJP government received support.

The government has cited Article 15, Article 16 and Article 38 to justify the increase in reservation beyond 50%.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Going in circles

With elections just a few months away, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai *(in picture)* is busy addressing public meetings as part of his party's Jana Sankalp Yatra. On October 18, he addressed rallies at Aurad and Humnabad in Bidar district. Next day, he was scheduled to address two more public rallies, one at Mahagaon in Kalaburagi district and other at Hunasagi in Yadgir

district. One would assume staying the night at Kalaburagi and attending the programmes scheduled for the next day is the ideal travel plan for him before heading back to the State capital. But Mr. Bommai had other plans. Instead of heading to Kalaburagi, 60 km from Humnabad, he travelled back to Bidar by a helicopter and took a special flight from there to Bengaluru for the night stay on Tuesday. Next morning (October 19), Mr. Bommai took a special flight from Bengaluru to Kalaburagi from where he took a helicopter to reach Hunasagi in Yadgir district and then Mahagaon in Kalaburagi district to attend the scheduled programmes. He then came to Kalaburagi Airport in the helicopter and took the special flight to fly back to Bengaluru. Just reading this itinerary leaves one's head spinning.

Sparring over caste

Prithvi Katti and Vijayananda Kashappanavar, children of two powerful politicians from North Karnataka, got into a verbal duel in Hukkeri. Prithvi Katti, son of Ramesh Katti, former MP, took objection to a suggestion made by Mr. Kashappanavar, Hungund MLA of the Congress, that the Panchamasali caste members were not well represented in the State legislature.

"Where ever there are Panchamasali voters in large numbers, there should be a Panchamasali MLA. There are a lot of Panchamasali people in Hukkeri. There should be a Panchamasali MLA from Hukkeri in future," Mr. Kashappanavar said.

Mr. Katti, who is not a Panchamasali, took objection to Mr. Kashappanavar's suggestion. Mr. Katti, who belongs to the Banajiga sub-caste among Lingayats, had only come to the rally to express solidarity with the Panchamasali community. Irked over the Congress MLA's remarks, Mr. Katti walked away with his followers. Mr. Kashappanavar reacted strongly and said, "I am not afraid of any children of leaders. I am also the son of a former Minister [S.R. Kashappanavar] and know how to handle such princes."

Around a transfer

The transfer of DCP Nisha James *(in picture)*, who is considered a competent and hard working IPS officer by her peers, has brought goings on in the Home Department and the government in the spotlight. The government termed her transfer as "routine" though a complaint against her, accusing her of harassment, had been doing the rounds days prior to that. She was shunted out from DCP Administration to Internal Security Division.

She managed the

Bengaluru police administration and took many initiatives such as transfer of junior level officers. Sources say it is because of her "inflexible standards and dedication to rules", that she was transferred. They say she rejected many applications for gun licenses that may have antagonised the government, which wanted her to be more "lenient." She has always preferred to keep the media at a distance, and so, one does not quite know how she views it all.

Kumar Buradikatti
Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
Imran Gowhar

Deputy Speaker of Assembly Mamani passes away

Vishwanath Mamani

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Vishwanath Chandrashekar Mamani, also known as Anand Mamani, died in a private hospital in Bengaluru on Saturday night. He was 56. He was suffering from a liver ailment, family sources said.

The body was brought to Saundatti from Benglauru and kept for public viewing in Saundatti tahsildar office for a few hours. The burial was held at the family farmhouse near Saundatti. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, his Cabinet colleagues, MP Mangala Angadi, and other leaders were present.

Mr. Mamani was admitted to hospital after he complained of abdominal pain in early August. In the second week of August, he was flown to Chennai from Bengaluru, on the advice of his family doctors, to seek treatment from an expert. He was shifted to Bengaluru over a month ago.

The three-time MLA from Saundatti constituency was a BJP leader. His father Chandrashekar Mallikarjun Mamani had also served as the Deputy Speaker in the 1990s. Chandrashekar Mamani was a four-time MLA. His uncle Vishwanath Karibasappa Mamani, also known as Rajanna Mamani, was an Independent MLA in 2004.

Mr. Anand Mamani came from a politically powerful Lingayat family in Saundatti. Members of the Mamani family have been elected eight times - from Saundatti Assembly constituency and the Parasgad Assembly seat before the 2008 delimitation.

The Mamanis have been actively involved in cotton trade and running of various cooperative societies.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
Probate C.P. No. 10/2022
IN THE MATTER OF THE GOODS OF MRS. MEGHANA HARIDEV (DECEASED) INTESTATE

BETWEEN:1.Mr.Narayana Rao Sharad Pawar Aged about 45 years, S/o Late Narayana Rao Pawar Santoji, R/at No.5, Race Course Road, Poorna, Prasad Road, Kumara Krupa Road, High Grounds, Bengaluru – 560001. **...PETITIONER**
AND: -Nil- ...RESPONDENT

WHEREAS, the above Petitioner have filed a Petition under Section 278 r/w Section 218 and 300, of Indian Succession Act,1925 praying for grant of Letters of Administration in the name of Mr. Narayana Rao Sharad Pawar, in respect of the properties of the Deceased, Mrs. Meghana Haridev, **who died on 6th day of November, 2021 and resided at No.105, 2nd cross, SBM Colony, Anand Nagar, HA Farm, Bengaluru - 560024.**

Be it known that no caveat has been entered and that the said petition is posted for hearing on **12.12.2022** and all persons claiming to have any interest in the estate of the Deceased may come and see the proceedings before the grant of Letters of Administration

Given under my hand and the seal of this Court, **this the 14th day of October 2022.**

By Order of the Court, Asst. Registrar
High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru

Counsel for Petitioner
B.V Nidhishree, Advocate
Chambers: F-02, 2nd Floor, Benson Boulevard, No. 77/1, Nandidurga Road, Benson Town Bengaluru- 560046, Tel: 080 4166 8469

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: SEE/WMC/TKR/3461-63 Date: 17.10.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites tenders for the following work.

Bid Enquiry No: SEE/Tr(W&M)/TKR/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-1/Enq-12 Dt: 17.10.2022 for **Dismantling, Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 100 MVA, 220/66kV CGL make, Sl.No. BH8859/1 year of manufacture 2002, faild at 220/66kV Receiving Station, Anchepalya in Tumakuru district and laying at 220/66kV Receiving Station, Anchepalya on Total Turnkey Basis.**

The detailed information regarding subject enquiry in e-Procurement portal can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink e-Procurement or **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **03.11.2022** and other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Trans (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Siddaganga Complex, B.H.Road, Tumakuru-2. Phone: 0816-2955095

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur Hassan District.

Tender Notification No:17/2022-23
Date:18.10.2022

The Executive Engineer, CNNL., Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur-573120 Hassan Taluk, Hassan Dist., As Per KW-1, KW-2 and KW-3, invited Item rate tender (One Cover & Two cover) through e-procurement only vide No. 17/2022-23, Date: 18.10.2022 on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore from the eligible contractors of PWD Class-IV and above of any State / Central Government /Public Sector organization. Details:-2 work, Cost of Work approximate Maximun amount Rs.21.50Lakhs and minimum Rs.4.51Lakhs, and from the eligible contractors of PWD Class-III and above of any State /Central Government /Public Sector organization, Details:-2 work approximate. Maximun amount Rs.84.73Lakhs and minimum Rs.42.35Lakhs, EMD as Prescribed in e-portal, The contractor can have access e-tender documents from 27.10.2022 to 14.11.2022 through website www.eproc.karnataka. gov.in on payment (Non Refundable) of transaction fees as fixed by E - portal (2)Opening of Technical/ Financial bid 15.11.2022 at 5.00 PM onwards. (if possible) For further information etc.,contact in the undersigned office during working hours or through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in (Department).

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur

ಬಾಸಾಸಂ/ಹೆಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/660/2022–23

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my client **Sri MOHAN KUMAR L.N.** No.1018, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560 040, had lost the Parental document with respect to the Schedule Property, registered as document No.8919/1999-2000 of Book-1, dated: 19-02-2000, registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, in transit on 15-10-2022 (who is the present owner of the Schedule Property).

That my client had already lodged the complaint before the concerned Police Station authorities on **21-10-2022.**

That my client also requested the public that if anybody trace the said document, please hand over the same to him or to the said Advocate within **7 days** time from the date of this Notice.

SCHEDULE

Site No.683, HSR Layout, Sector VII Extension, Bangalore, measuring East to West 18.28 Meters and North to South 12.18 mtrs, and bounded on the: **East by:** Site No.628, **West by:** Road, **North by:** No.682, **South by:** Site No.684

Sd/-
A. MANJUNATH, B.Com, LLB
Advocate, Enrole No. KAR/409/98.
No 924, 28th Main, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560 069,
Mobile: 98453 95528

Place: Bangalore
Date: 22-10-2022

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

BIRTH CENTENARY

N SRINIVASAN
(Naduvakarai Duraiappan)
DOB:24-10-1922 - DOD: 29-06-2015
Beloved Husband of
Late Smt: Jayalakshmi Srinivasan
Loving memory of our dear father
S.Balaji, Sudha Balaji,
S.Amirthavalli & Mala Parthasarathy

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

1st Death Anniversary

In everlasting memory of
Shri. Krishnappa Shetty
A great soul, you have always inspired us with your zest for life and forever remain in our hearts.
Family and friends

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered eligible contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender EMD(In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	North-1	BWSSB/ENTE/AE-1/1502/ 2022-23 Date: 13.10.2022	Rs. 9,25,008/- Rs. 23,200/-	08.11.2022 upto 3:00 p.m.	09.11.2022 at 4:00p.m.
2		BWSSB/ENTE/AE-1/1504/ 2022-23 Date: 13.10.2022	Rs. 37,21,626/- Rs. 74,500/-		
3		BWSSB/ENTE/AE-1/1520/ 2022-23 Date: 13.10.2022	Rs. 54,97,191/- Rs. 1,10,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer(North-1).

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

4	South-1	BWSSB/EES-1/TO/AE/1509/ 2022-23 Date: 18.10.2022	Rs. 38,00,038/- Rs. 76,000/-	04.11.2022 upto 4:00 p.m.	07.11.2022 after 3:00p.m.
5		BWSSB/EES-1/TO/AE/1510/ 2022-23 Date: 18.10.2022	Rs. 70,18,220.89 Rs. 1,40,500/-		
6		BWSSB/EES-1/TO/AE/1511/ 2022-23 Date: 18.10.2022	Rs. 66,92,341.62 Rs. 1,34,000/-		
7		BWSSB/EES-1/TO/AE/1512/ 2022-23 Date: 18.10.2022	Rs. 43,41,675.07 Rs. 87,000/-		
8		BWSSB/EES-1/TO/AE/1513/ 2022-23 Date: 18.10.2022	Rs. 71,89,985/- Rs. 1,44,000/-		
9		BWSSB/EES-1/TO/AE/1514/ 2022-23 Date: 18.10.2022	Rs. 37,72,235/- Rs. 98,600/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer(South-1).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/2743/2022-23

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Pruthvik C alias Pruthvik Cauvery S/o Vishal Gowda, residing at No.3, 3rd Cross, 2nd Main, Aecs Layout, Hal Layout, Geddalahalli, Bengaluru-560094, changed my name to Pruthvik Cauvery for all purposes in future.

I, Madhushri Kallimani D/o Gurudev Yamanappa Kallimani, Ex. Wife of Basavaraj Vasan, residing at #42 ShivaShakti Building, Raghavendra Layout, Barakotri Road,Near Kariamma Temple, Dharwad - 580007,do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I got a divorce from my husband vide court decree No. MC 108/2018 dated 12-03-2018.Further I have changed my minor Daughter name from Shashwati Kallimani Alias Shashwati Basavaraj Vasan aged 15 years to Shashwati Madhushri Kallimani for all purposes in future.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

LOST UPAVP Allotment Letters no 2566/ SPAVY/P p/flat no 7D/A1-123 (1 BHK type A) dt 22/06/2021 and 6708/ SPAVY/P p/flat no 7D/A1-123 (1 BHK type A) dated 24th September 2021 Finders please contact the below mentioned no: 9923454061.

LOST UPAVP allotment Letters no 6707 /SPAVY/P p/flat no 7D/A1-122 (1 BHK type A) dt 24/9/2021 and 2614/ SPAVY/P p/flat no 7D/A1-122 (1 BHK type A) dt 22/06/2021. Finder please contact the below mentioned number : 8473907417.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform General Public that my client **Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi W/o Tulasiram,** Residing at Door No. 17/1, Somnath Mudaliar Street, Vannerpet, Vivek Nagar Post,Bangalore-560 047 has lost the Original Title Document ie. Regd. Doc. No. 1100/1988 dated 02-03-1988 and Regd. Doc. No. 2380/2007 dated 07-02-2007 both are registered at SRO Hosur, relating to the Plot No. 13 bounded as on East: 20 ft. Road, West: Plot no. 16,North: Plot No.12 and South: Plot No.14 ,within these boundaries East to West 40 ft on both sides and North to South 30 ft. on both sides, admeasuring 1200 sqft, situated in Sy.No. 56/1 of Govinda Agraharam village,Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri Dist, Tamilnadu. In this regard my client who is the present owner namely Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi W/o Tulasiram filed Police complaint at CCB, City Police, Bangalore on 13/05/2019 vide. Lost Report No. 093392/2019 and on 24/08/2019, vide Lost Report No. 167142/2019.My client hereby issue notice to the General Public that if any person has in any manner right, title, claim and/or interest in respect of the above mentioned Plot and found the said misplaced Regd. Documents anywhere he/she may inform to me or to my client in writing within 7 days from the date of publication in this notice. Failing which my client shall treat a True copy of the above said misplaced documents as original for further transactions/ Alienations. Thereafter no claim will be entertained.

By
SAI ASSOCIATES,
Nanaiah N S,
Advocate,
No.27/B, Deccan Palms
Ananthnagar Phase II, E City,
Bangalore - 560100
Mobile No 9448550248

Date -12/10/2022
Place -Bangalore

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INBRIEF

Munugode bypoll a fight for justice, says Bandi

State BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar said on Sunday that the Munugode byelection was a fight for justice and appealed to people to vote consciously as any 'adverse' result would allow Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) president and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao to return to his farm house and relax. "Compare the candidates contesting in the election and then decide whom to vote," he said while participating in the 'Aatmeeya Sammelan'.

Kerala govt. moves HC in actor's ivory possession case

The Kerala government has moved the High Court challenging the order of a lower court dismissing the State's plea to withdraw the case against actor Mohanlal under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, for illegally possessing ivory. The actor has already filed a petition against the dismissal of the government's request for withdrawing the prosecution. However, the court observed that under provisions of the CrPC, the accused has no power to file applications for withdrawal of prosecution proceedings.

Two dead, 1 injured in fire at cracker stall in Vijayawada

Two workers were killed and one was injured when fire broke out in firecrackers' stalls set up for Deepavali here on Sunday. The victims were identified as Brahmam and Kasi. The Andhra Pradesh Disaster Response and Fire Services Department personnel extinguished the flames. According to police personnel, the fire started in an outlet set up at Gymkhana Grounds and spread to two other stalls.

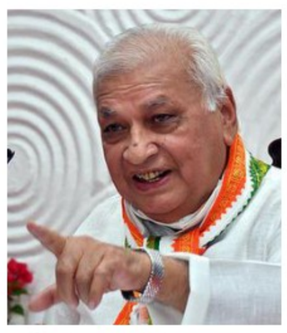
Kerala Governor demands resignation of 9 V-Cs by today

LDF leaders hint at possible legislation to remove the Governor as Chancellor of universities and plan to drum up public resistance by holding a rally in front of the Raj Bhavan on November 15

Sarath Babu George
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In an unprecedented move, Governor Arif Mohammed Khan directed the Vice-Chancellors of nine universities in Kerala to tender their resignations by 11.30 a.m. on Monday.

Mr. Khan, the Chancellor of varsities, issued the order after the Supreme Court annulled the appointment of M.S. Rajasree as Vice-Chancellor of the APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University (KTU).



Arif Mohammed Khan

In a communique, the Governor alleged a violation of University Grants Commission (UGC) norms in the Vice-Chancellor appointment process. The Raj Bhavan said the search committees had failed to submit a panel of three to five candidates to the Chancellor so the Governor could exercise his informed judgment.

Instead, the committees arbitrarily proposed a single name for the top academic posts, thereby hobbling the Chancellor's right to wield his discretion.

The Governor's striking order surprised the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government and hardened its resolve to resist what it viewed as the Raj Bhavan's attempt to impose the RSS Hindu majoritarian agenda on Kerala's higher education sector.

The political executive has reportedly counselled the V-Cs to ignore the order, setting the ground for a protracted legal battle with far-reaching constitutional ramifications.

At a joint press conference here, M.V. Govindan and Kanam Rajendran, State secretaries of the CPI (M) and CPI, respectively, hinted at possible legislation to remove the Governor as Chancellor of varsities. They said the State government would move a review petition against the order revoking KTU's Vice-Chancellor appointment.

Secondly, it would drum up public resistance against Mr. Khan's "tyrannical bid" and hold a rally in front of the Raj Bhavan on November 15.

Sterlite firing: T.N. initiates 'penalty proceedings' against former Collector

Dennis S. Jesudasan
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has initiated "penalty proceedings" against IAS officer N. Venkatesh over his commissions and omissions during the police firing as then Thoothukudi Collector.

His actions were strongly criticised by the Justice Aruna Jagadeesan Commission of Inquiry report. A total of 12 people were killed in the incident in Thoothukudi on May 22, 2018. One more died on the following day.

The Commission had recommended departmental action against the official. There are multiple stages in penalty proceedings, starting with government seeking an explanation from the official against whom it was initiated. The initiating of proceedings is the first stage, an official said.

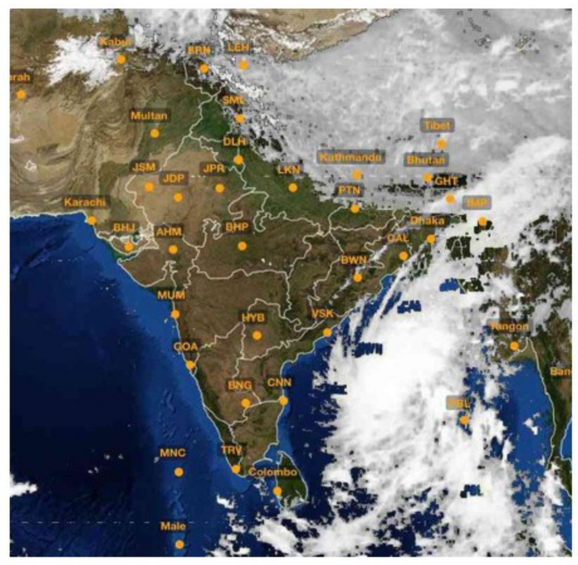
Under the penalty proceedings, a charge memo is issued to the official concerned after which he would be given an opportunity to offer his/her explanation. An inquiry officer, who would submit a report to the government, would be appointed.

Based on the report, the government, if the charges are proved, would issue a show cause notice to the official and if it is not satisfied with the reply, decide on whether to take action.

Though the report's terms of reference confined only to police officers, the Commission said: "the commissions and omissions" on the part of the District Collector assumed importance. "Would only suggest that the requisite departmental action be taken against District Collector Mr. Venkatesh, IAS also, having regard to the observations of this Commission about his style of functioning reminiscent of abdication of his responsibility," it said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places is likely over coastal districts of West Bengal, north Assam and Arunachal Pradesh; heavy to extremely heavy rainfall is likely over South Assam, East Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura and heavy rainfall at isolated places over coastal districts of Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.0	25.4	Kozhikode	—	33.5	25.5
Ahmedabad	—	35.5	18.1	Kurnool	—	32.8	20.3
Aizawl	—	—	19.5	Lucknow	—	31.7	20.3
Allahabad	—	33.3	20.4	Madurai	—	33.6	25.0
Bengaluru	0.1	27.9	18.1	Mangaluru	0.2	32.0	24.0
Bhopal	—	31.5	15.5	Mumbai	—	33.5	24.0
Bhubaneswar	—	32.0	22.1	Mysuru	—	29.7	21.0
Chandigarh	—	32.4	17.0	New Delhi	—	31.4	14.2
Chennai	—	31.8	25.1	Patna	—	32.8	20.1
Coimbatore	—	32.0	23.4	Port Blair	9.0	27.8	25.2
Dehradun	—	29.9	14.1	Puducherry	—	31.7	—
Gangtok	—	20.9	13.1	Pune	—	29.1	16.6
Goa	24.0	33.6	24.1	Raipur	—	30.0	18.4
Guwahati	—	33.0	21.6	Ranchi	—	27.7	19.0
Hubballi	—	29.0	17.0	Shillong	—	25.1	16.4
Hyderabad	—	28.0	14.6	Shimla	—	—	13.5
Imphal	—	31.4	16.1	Srinagar	—	—	5.2
Jaipur	—	—	18.6	Thiruvananthapuram	5.0	31.0	24.5
Kochi	—	30.2	24.4	Tiruchi	16.0	33.0	24.0
Kohima	—	24.5	12.8	Vijayawada	—	32.7	21.8
Kolkata	—	33.6	24.5	Visakhapatnam	—	33.0	27.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.67	116	25	123	119	
Bengaluru	7	30	43	183	120	
Chennai	3	62	74	172	116	
Delhi	.20	152	.—	275	373	
Hyderabad	2	28	34	153	133	
Kolkata	7	.—	21	68	123	
Lucknow	.14	88	56	174	182	
Mumbai	.12	42	35	103	227	
Pune	.—	.—	.—	—	—	
Visakhapatnam	.28	44	26	75	100	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 310 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

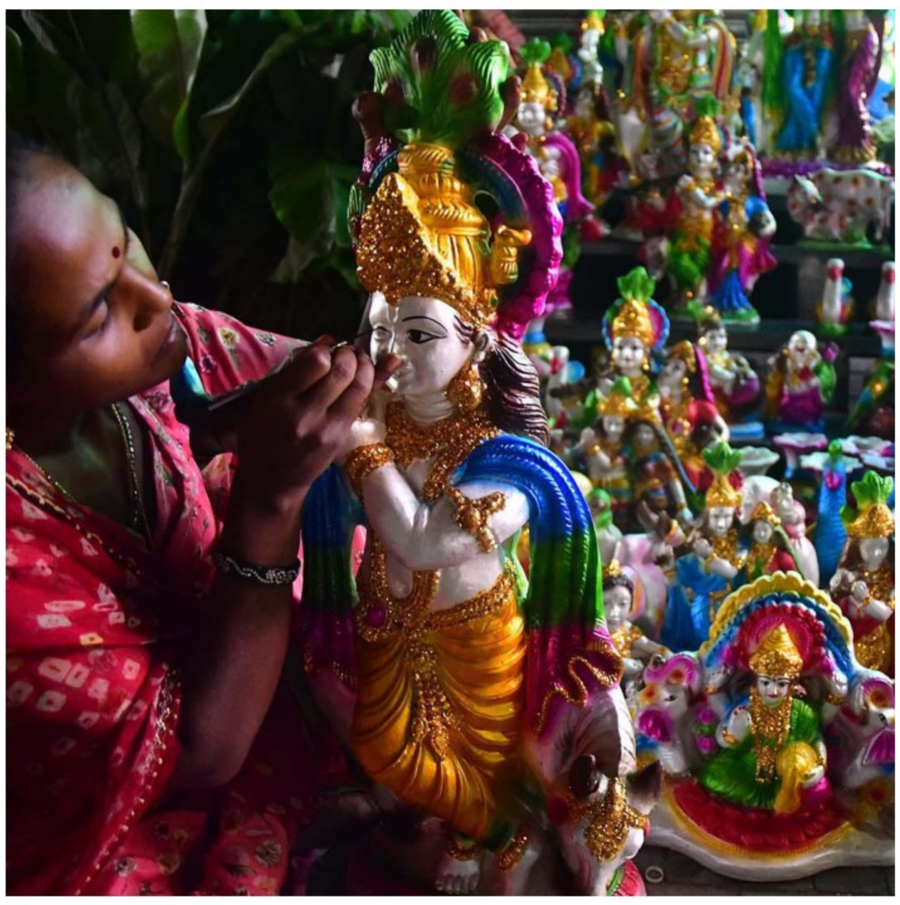
SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Ready for festivities



Colourful display: An artist carefully painting final details on an idol ahead of Deepavali at a roadside stall in Vijayawada. G.N. RAO

'Invisible' disease wreaks havoc on commercial sandalwood cultivation

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

The threat to India's pride, sandalwood, is increasing as the deadly sandalwood spike disease (SSD), which hitherto was confined mainly to forest areas, has started spreading to private fields where the cultivation of this aromatic tree has been taken up on a commercial basis. A study has now shown that this 'invisible' disease, which is wiping out the sandalwood trees, can transmit through seeds of infected trees through the presence of disease-causing bacteria called Phytoplasma.

This phenomenon has been blamed for the spread of the SSD to commercial farms in a study by the Bengaluru-based Institute of Wood Sciences & Technology (IWST) in association with the National Centre for Cell Sciences, Pune. A paper published by them in the science journal *biology* on October 12 notes that several sandalwood plants grown by sourcing seeds from nurseries had tested positive for SSD.

Dr. R. Sundararaj

"We found that 38.66% and 23.23% of one-month and four-month-old seedlings tested positive for SSD phytoplasma. Considering the ongoing efforts to re-establish the healthy sandalwood population and its commercial importance, these findings are worrisome," the authors say in the study.

The study has recommended accreditation of commercial production of sandalwood seedlings through testing to ensure that the plants are free from SSD. It has also called for a paradigm shift in policies handling sandalwood seedlings.

Dr. R. Sundararaj, head of Forest Protection Division in IWST, who spearheaded the study along with Dr. Amit Yadav and his team at NCCS, Pune, says the phenomenon of SSD transmitting through seeds has posed a challenge to commercial cultivation as the farmer will not be able to know when his sapling would start showing symptoms of the disease. Some have shown symptoms four years after planting. Hence, the accreditation process would help safeguard the interest of growers, he said.

"As sandalwood cultivation is a long-term process and highly rewarding, the accreditation process would go a long way in safeguarding the interests of growers," observed Dr. Sundararaj. The study has also recommended avoiding collection and distribution of seeds from SSD-affected areas.

Global shortage

India was once a world leader in sandalwood heartwood production, fulfilling 80% of global annual demand by accounting for over 4,000 tonnes of production in the 1960s. The SSD has adversely affected the natural population of sandalwood in the southern region, particularly some parts of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, leading to a global shortage of sandalwood-based products, the study notes.

Sandalwood production in India has been decreasing annually at a rate of 20% since 1995. The total export of sandalwood oil, which stood at 27,930 kg from 1997 to 1998, got reduced to just 10 Kg in 2015-2016. The decline in natural population made the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classify sandalwood as "vulnerable" in 2019.

'North A.P. will have a bright future if Visakhapatnam is executive capital'

The Hindu Bureau
SRIKAKULAM

The Visakha Rajadhani Sadhana Ikya Vedika, a forum comprising more than 50 associations, on Sunday resolved to strive hard to make Visakhapatnam the executive capital of Andhra Pradesh with a view to protect the interests of the North Andhra region.

On the lines of the Telangana movement, the forum plans to mobilise the support of people of 6,200 villages and about 35 towns of the region. It also plans to begin a bus yatra to Amaravati to explain the sentiments of the people to A.P. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Revenue Minister Dharmana Prasada Rao addressing the forum meeting on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, State Revenue Minister Dharmana Prasada Rao, said North Andhra would have a bright future if Visakhapatnam was made the executive capital. The Minister alleged that former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had turned Amaravati into a real estate venture.

"The Srikakulam-Visakhapatnam stretch will progress quickly with the three-capital decision. Moreover, huge funds and vast tracts of land are not required if Visakhapatnam is made the executive capital. The Amaravati model of capital will lead to agitations in the future as the wealth of the State will be concentrated there," Mr. Rao said.

Vedika convener D. Sridhar alleged that the TDP government had ignored valuable points raised by the Srikrishna and Sivaramakrishnan committees, which opposed the construction of a greenfield capital in Amaravati.

"The TDP government had not given details about land availability in North Andhra and Rayalaseema in spite of requests by the committees. It is a conspiracy against Visakhapatnam and the North Andhra region," said Dr. Sridhar.

Karnataka Forest Department warns of legal action against goldsmiths

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Forest Department recently wrote to the State jewellers' associations asking its members to keep themselves away from processing or using any illegal wildlife body parts in their finished goods.

A letter by Principal Chief Wildlife Warden, Vijay Kumar Gogi, to the secretary of the jewellers' association and Karnataka diamond and gems merchants' association, said: "It has been observed that there is increasing involvement of goldsmith/jeweller community in wildlife crimes. Members of the community are at cutting edge level and are vulnerable to use illegal body parts of wildlife in their finished goods."

Mr. Gogi also warned of legal action as per the Wildlife Protection Act. "I would request the association to take serious note of it and inform the members to keep themselves away from possessing or using any illegal wildlife body part, failing which the department is constrained to proceed as per penal provision of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. " he stated.

What the report says

According to a report, '"Wildlife Poaching and Illegal Trade in India: 2020' by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) - India, a huge network exists catering to the demands for big cat parts in the jewellery industry (400 leopard nails and six tiger nails seized), indicating "an elaborate supply chain tracing the network from poachers to smugglers, to jewellery vendors, and regular customers, who demand big cat parts embossments in gold pendants/lockets and other jewellery."

Recently, Kannada actor Darshan, who is the brand ambassador of the Karnataka Forest and Agriculture departments, was seen flaunting his tiger nail gold necklace during a visit to a temple.

The Forest Department had taken cognizance of this, and stepped up vigil to monitor jewellers and goldsmiths using body parts of wild animals illegally in jewellery, said Forest Department officials.

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Vital intervention

Supreme Court must do everything possible to curb the propagation of hate

There is good reason for the Supreme Court to ask the police to be proactive in dealing with hate speech by taking immediate legal action without waiting for a formal complaint. The Court has also warned of contempt action if the police showed any hesitation in compliance. Directed at the police in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the order is in response to the "unending flow of hate speeches" highlighted in a writ petition before it. The Court has referred to the growing "climate of hate", and taken note of the inaction in most instances, despite the law containing provisions to deal with the phenomenon. It is quite apparent that the governments at the Centre and in some like-minded States do not share the Court's concern for communal harmony, fraternity and tranquillity; in fact, some of them may be contributing to the vitiated atmosphere either by studied inaction or complicity in allowing provocative speeches in purported religious gatherings by majoritarian elements. Intervention by the highest court has become necessary in the light of some controversial religious leaders getting away lightly after making unacceptable comments, some of them tinged with a genocidal tenor. It is in such a backdrop that the Court has underscored the constitutional values of secularism and fraternity among all religions and social groups.

It was a religious conclave held in Haridwar late last year that set the tone for the 'hate speech' case that is being heard now. Even then, the Court had called for corrective measures, leading to another conclave being prevented by local authorities in Roorkee in Uttarakhand. While the intervention may have halted a few meetings at that time, it cannot be said that such transgressions have ended. There has been a disconcerting pattern of Hindu festivals becoming an occasion for the conduct of religious processions that end in clashes caused by provocative behaviour. In the name of dealing with the resulting clashes or disturbances, officials have resorted to demolishing the houses of those allegedly involved in the incidents, without following any process of law. Such developments have given rise to new curbs on minorities, such as unwarranted police probes into the holding of group prayers, and new allegations of purported plots to infiltrate Hindu events. Some television channels have been adding to the bigotry by their manner of functioning. Administrative bias on the one hand and the spread of social prejudice on the other cannot be allowed to vitiate the national mood. Towards that end, the Court must do everything possible to nudge authorities to enforce the law against the propagation of hate.

Out of favour

The military, not Imran Khan, is the real threat to Pakistan's democracy

The Pakistan Election Commission's decision to disqualify Imran Khan from completing his term in Parliament is a setback for the former Prime Minister, who has been rallying his supporters against his political rivals as well as the military establishment ever since he was ousted in April. The commission found Mr. Khan, leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, guilty of illegally selling gifts he got from foreign dignitaries when Prime Minister and concealing the profits. And the four-member bench came up with a particularly harsh judgment of barring a popular politician and the main opposition leader from office, an order that is reminiscent of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's disqualification in 2018. Mr. Khan would also be prevented from heading the PTI as an earlier Supreme Court judgment bars disqualified leaders from heading political parties. The verdict came days after Mr. Khan swept the by-polls by winning six out of seven National Assembly seats, in a sign of his surging popularity despite the different cases slapped on him. He has challenged the commission's verdict in the Islamabad High Court, but, needless to say, the development has added to his legal woes. It could threaten his political career and worsen the political instability.

While the legality of the commission's verdict would be reviewed by the High Court, it is hard to miss the parallels between the disqualification of Mr. Sharif and that of Mr. Khan, barred from office after they fell out with the powerful military establishment. Mr. Sharif always had a testy relationship with the military. Mr. Khan, on the other side, was a beneficiary of Mr. Sharif's ouster. He rose to power with help from the establishment, and the then opposition which makes up the current government, accused him of being a pawn in the hands of the generals. But the tables turned when Mr. Khan tried to rein in the military. Now, he is accusing the military of conspiring with his political rivals to keep him out of power. Whether he is right or wrong, Pakistan's history suggests that any popular leader who tries to mobilise political capital independent of the military's standing would be met with strong institutional resistance. Mr. Khan's story is no different. Pakistan is in a crisis. The Shehbaz Sharif government is a short-term arrangement; the economy is in free fall; and this year's floods have made matters worse, leading to growing public resentment. The civilian leaders should assert themselves, strengthen democracy and take the country out of the morass it is in. Instead, their power struggles, under the long shadow of the military, are further destabilising the country.

Deciphering samba politics in Brazil

Peter Ronald deSouza

is the D.D. Kosambi Visiting Professor at Goa University. He has recently co-edited the book, 'Companion to Indian Democracy: Resilience, Fragility and Ambivalence'

We should be giving more attention to the presidential elections taking place in Brazil on October 30. This is not just because Brazil, like India, is part of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), a political grouping that seeks to challenge unipolarity. Hence what happens to Brazil's democracy is of concern to us. Or not even because the future of the Amazon, the last magical natural forest providing huge ecosystem services to the world, is at stake, since the incumbent wants to destroy it and the challenger protect it. And also not because the question of whether Brazil will join forces with the growing leftward trend across Latin America as left-leaning governments have come to power committed to greater social welfare rejecting neo-liberal policies. These, in themselves, are good reasons for more attention. But there are others.

Brazil as a comparison

As we, in our insularity, seek to understand what democracy is doing to India, there is the need to look, in 2022, at another democracy as a comparison. Brazil is a good candidate. Its land area is 2.59 times as big as India. It has a population of 213 million versus India's 1.34 billion. Its GDP is half of India's at 1.61 T versus 3.17 T; it has an average income of $7,720 against India's $2,170. And its unemployment rate of 14.4% compares with India's 6%. It is a multi-party democracy, has an active print and electronic media, a vibrant civil society, and a social media that plays a powerful role in driving, perhaps determining, election outcomes. Further, Brazil has a large middle class, a highly skilled elite, a huge number of poor people and, finally, a significant diaspora. These facts and features have democratic consequences.

I accidentally stumbled upon the import of the Brazilian elections when, on the morning of October 2, I stepped out of the building in New York where I was staying, and came upon thousands upon thousands of Brazilians, eagerly waiting their turn at the polling station in mid-town Manhattan. They were a raucous lot. They hurled slogans at each other. A tense line of New York policemen stood between them. Two groups of Brazilians, one wearing the red of Lula and the other the yellow of Bolsonaro, were facing off. You could feel the rhythmic samba of their sloganeering. I was sad that as an Indian, I knew so little about the Brazilian elections.

Since we in India are always wanting to reform our electoral system through administrative and legislative innovations, here are some additional features of the Brazilian electoral system that we can consider. Brazil has compulsory voting and dual citizenship – which explains the noisy thousands in New York. Like India, Brazil uses a sophisticated electronic voting machine (EVM) and a biometric system of voter identification. By 2020, 119 million voters had their fingerprints registered. In the last six presidential elections, voter turnout was near 80%. Results are available on the same day. Based on media reports, Brazil, it appears, has an independent electoral management body – the electoral court – that conducts the election; it had publicly and courageously called out President Bolsonaro when during the campaign, he had suggested the likelihood of voter fraud and EVM tampering. An independent electoral management body willing to call out an interfering executive is the bedrock of a democracy. Brazil, it seems, has one.

> A highly political partisan nation, a threatened peaceful succession, and a turn to the left or a return to the right are at stake on October 30

Again something to note. The first round of elections takes place every four years on the first Sunday of October and, if no candidate gets 50% plus one vote, the run-off, between the top two, is held on October 30. Further, Brazil has a mixed electoral system where, at some levels, it adopts the First Past the Post (FPTP) system and at other levels, a Proportional Representation (PR) system. India, it seems, compares well with Brazil. Or is it the other way around?

Political polarisation

Every commentary of the 2022 Brazilian election begins with the observation that this is a highly polarised election. But other than saying that the two manifestos of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Jair Bolsonaro are fundamentally different, students of democracy today need to recognise that in democracies across the world, such political polarisation is becoming both significant and threatening. Consensus is breaking down. It is as if in every democracy there are now two incommensurable nations with little chance of building an overlapping consensus between them. The divide has become rabidly ideological on not just what constitutes a desirable future but also on the means to get there. It is a choice between market forces versus state intervention; trickle down versus safety net; growth with distribution versus growth resulting in a levelling up, and cultural nationalism versus cosmopolitanism. Data comes to the aid of both sides of the argument.

In Brazil, the incumbent, Mr. Bolsonaro, has even used the language of war. All social welfare schemes are dubbed communist and being communist is a terrible thing. The ideological triumphalism of Wall Street seems to have spread across the world. Latin America, however, is challenging this neo-liberal hegemony. In India too we must re-visit these debates to decolonise our minds. In 1989, Brazil introduced us to the fascinating democratic innovation of 'participatory budgeting' through its experiment at Porto Allegre. Soon after in the 1990s, we responded with our own innovation in Kerala of the 'People's Campaign for the 9th Plan'. On democratic innovations, with schemes such as Bolsa familia, Brazil is a good comparison.

Consequences for global democracy

There is growing anxiety among democrats that the October 30 election results will be disputed and that the January 6 U.S. slogan of a 'stolen election' will be embraced by Mr. Bolsonaro. He has stated that he can be removed only by god, by death, or by a fraudulent election. This threat that 'peaceful succession', a given in any democracy, may be at risk is a frightening prospect.

Further, the middle class which, according to democratic theory is supposed to be a bulwark against democratic backsliding, now appears in Brazil to have become its facilitator. The middle class has split in its political partisanship. Sections of it live in discourse silos of the left and right. From the centre of politics, they have now shifted to the extremes, letting public reason get swamped by acute ideology. This can be seen in the results of the first round of elections on October 2 (Mr. Lula, 48.4% of the vote share and Mr. Bolsonaro, 43.2%). The two Ministers occupying the portfolios of Health and Environment respectively in the Bolsonaro government, one responsible for a tragically large number of COVID-19 deaths and the other for the destruction of the Amazon, were both re-elected. In contrast, two LGBT activists and two members from the indigenous community, belonging to vulnerable groups during the Bolsonaro regime, have also been elected. A highly political partisan Brazil, a threatened peaceful succession, an Amazon ecosystem at risk, a promise of a turn to the left or a return to the right are all at stake on October 30.

Which way will Brazil go? And what are the lessons for India?

The views expressed are personal

Ancient stewardship now stamped on the present

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

is Union Cabinet Minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India

Two pieces of news have had me captive under their spell over the past few days. The first is a promotion video from the film *PS1*, where the lead actor, Chiyyan Vikram, highlights the magnificent deeds of an almost divine king. The second is about a non-descript *samadhi* marked by an oblong Shiva *lingam* in Udayalur, Tamil Nadu. Being the Jal Shakti Minister, what struck me was this king's relationship with water, so much so that the novel this film is based on is called *Ponniyin Selvan* (PS), or 'Son of the Cauvery'. This king's genius shines resplendently in the Brihadisvara temple (Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu) and his humility seems so endearing in his simple *samadhi*.

The king that we are talking about – radiant as the sun and as majestic as the seas that he had mastered – is Raja-Dhi-Raj, 'Rajakesari' 'Arulmoli' Raja Raja Chola I. The renewed interest in him is yet another instance of the Indic revolution; of our forefathers who ruled by the principles laid down by our *Dharma Shastras* and who considered themselves mere servants of god and his disciples.

Raja Raja Chola I was not the first Chola King to focus on water. The illustrious Karikala Chola created the great anicut of Kallanai (Tamil Nadu), one of the oldest water regulatory structures and a heritage irrigation structure that is still in use today. The great/grand anicut with its multiple channels still ensures that the waters of the Cauvery reach the fields. But what Raja Raja Chola did that stood out against the sheer daring of his ancestors was the establishment of an astute governance model.

In 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the foundation stone laying ceremony of Parliament highlighted "historical evidence in the village of Uttaramerur... in Tamil Nadu" and how "stone inscriptions on the panchayat system prevalent during the Chola empire" explained how "every village was categorized as *Kudumbu*, which we call the ward today. One representative from these *kudumbus* was sent to the General Assembly, as it happens today". The people had the right to recall if any candidate/representative failed to declare details of his property. The Chola kings granted autonomy to village councils to make decisions about their villages while the kingdom held the power of audit over them. One of the most remarkable strategies of the great king to unify the land under him was to convert landlords into dependent government servants which gave the kingdom stability and made the king and his central cabinet the fulcrum around which the kingdom operated.

> There are several examples — in water management for instance — of how our ancestors showed they were part of a super generation

Water management of the highest order

As dictated by Visnu and Vasistha's *Dharma Shastras* as well as Chanakya's *Arthashastra*, instructions on water management were followed by him closely. The king's focus on water conservation and rainwater harvesting were such that his kingdom had thousands of ancient tanks serving communities; there were well-laid down rules for planning and the management of water. These tanks were never large as they were built according to the topography of the Deccan plateau. Surprisingly, every village had a *Neerkatti*, in-charge of irrigation, who supplied water from these tanks to the fields by following a schedule. All these activities were under the watchful eye of the village council which discussed, planned and managed the resources judiciously. The Parakesarivarman inscriptions highlight the punishment for unauthorised withdrawal of water. One of the astounding facts is the parameter for utilisation of water against the capacity of the tank that they tried to maintain. This minimum parameter, of 2.5 times, is still used by the Government when it comes to planning and building dams.

When it came to governance, Raja Raja Chola I was not only a micro manager of the highest order but also an ambitious planner and an executor-par-excellence like his forefathers. In his lifetime, he built over 5,000 dams and set up a water ministry. Some such as the Uyyakondan channel (985-1013 AD) are still functional. During the time of the Cholas, the work of water and flood management was considered to be a pious duty; a myth is that Lord Shiva himself descended to strengthen flood banks following the prayers of an old woman. One more aspect of the sophistication of his methods was the provision to effect the cost equivalent to labour for various works of irrigation and water management – which is followed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Inscriptions have shown that the government and people used to work together for water conservation – again followed by the Jal Shakti Abhiyan.

Other examples

We really do not have to look for new theories and practices in water conservation. We just have to revisit the past. Our great kings have been wiser than most of us can even begin to comprehend. When Kempegowda began to work on his dream city of Bengaluru, his mother only had two pieces of advice – '*Keregalam Kattu*, and *Marangalam Nedu* (Build lakes, plant trees'). The Pallavas had a separate body for lake management called the "*Eri Varyam*". King Rudradaman of Junagadh, Gujarat, spent all of his personal fortune repairing the embankments of lake Sudarshana when it was destroyed in a cloud burst. We all know that Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal in memory of his wife, but not many know what the *Rani Ki Vav* (or the queen's stepwell) in Gujarat is; it was built by queen Udayamati which some say was in memory of King Bhimdev – also a symbol of love, wherein a heritage structure quenches the thirst of millions.

What does a great kingdom mean? Does being powerful and prosperous count as greatness? Or is it something else? For me, one vital ingredient is empathy – a kingdom having it along with the above is truly great. Be it water or something else, empathy lies at the beating heart of a great empire. And empathy is something that our great ancestors practised. Our ancestors were a super generation ahead of its times, but tightly fastened to the teachings of the past. As the great king's story is retold to a wide-eyed audience, may his life serve as a reminder of the same virtues that course in our veins.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In full command

China is indeed the new hegemon of east Asia (Page 1, "Xi set to begin third term in command, rivals forced out", October 23). While the Chinese President, Xi Jinping, says that China would look to "enhance friendly ties, mutual interest and converging interest with its neighbours", his actions belie these objectives. Beijing is keen to enhance its military superiority. India is baffled by China's intransigence in settling the long-standing border dispute. Now, with Mr. Xi's complete control of the party and the military establishment, and his obsession with his country's security and stability, India must be wary of China. With China incrementally encroaching on India's borders it is unclear what India's strategies are in checkmating the Chinese advance.

Kangayam R. Narasimhan,
Chennai

India has to be cautious after the consolidation in China. Pakistan may be jubilant following Mr. Xi's entrenchment, whose words and actions will be taken as supreme.

V. Venkitasubramanian,
Coimbatore

This is a new phase of authoritarian rule as officials and partymen from a more moderate political mould have been shown the door. There is bound to be a muscular approach in diplomacy and military moves. One should not be surprised at a fourth term.

S.S. Paul,
Chakdaha, Nadia, West Bengal

Need for vigil

The emergence of new Omicron sublineages in India is a pointer that we should not lower our guard in the fight against COVID-19 ('Science' page, October 23). These sublineages have caused a surge in cases across Europe and the United States, and their recent detection in India should caution us to go back to the time-tested effective methods of curbing transmission: masking, ventilation and avoiding crowded places.

Dr. Thomas Palocaren,
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

To read more letters online, scan the QR code.
Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Upholding unity, opposing uniformity

Garga Chatterjee

is the General Secretary of Bangla Pokkho

"Salem" Dharanidharan

is the Spokesperson of the DMK Party and Executive Coordinator of Dravidian Professionals Forum

The debate on Hindi imposition has erupted once again after the Official Language Committee headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah recommended making Hindi the medium of instruction in central institutes of higher education in Hindi-speaking States. The Committee also proposes that Union government employees be punished for not knowing Hindi, making Hindi practically the sole official language of the Union government. In the past, Mr. Shah suggested that Hindi replace English as the link language, and be made the working language of Union Ministries. Several leaders in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have called for making Hindi the national language of India.

Discrimination continues

According to the Constitution, there is no national language in India. As per the Eighth Schedule, there are 22 official languages – Tamil for Tamil Nadu, Bangla for West Bengal, Hindi for Uttar Pradesh, Malayalam for Kerala, etc. – with Hindi and English being the official languages of the Union government. This already suggests a fundamental discrimination against the non-Hindi-speaking people because the mother tongue of the Hindi-speaking people is considered for the purposes of the Union but the mother tongues of the non-Hindi-speaking people are not. This makes some Indians more "Indian" than others. The Official Language Committee's recommendations will deepen this existing discrimination on the basis of language.

The Union government is dependent on the States for its revenue. Non-Hindi-speaking States provide revenue to the Union government which is disproportionately higher than the percentage of the population in these States. Hindi-speaking States survive on the basis of cross-subsidies from non-Hindi-speaking States transferred via the Union government. Even funding for central universities and institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology and the All-India Institutes of Medical Sciences is contributed indirectly and disproportionately by non-Hindi-speaking States. It will be a travesty of justice if funds from non-Hindi-speaking States are used to fund the artificial growth of Hindi at the cost of the fundamental rights of non-Hindi-speaking Indians. This imposition of Hindi is a direct assault on federalism and the principle of equal citizenship. Information provided, online or on paper, for recruitment exams to the Army, the Border Security Force, the Central Reserve Police Force, the Staff Selection Commission, etc. is available to Hindi-speaking people in their mother tongue, but the same is denied to non-Hindi-speaking people in their mother languages. The Union government spends 22 times more money on Hindi than it does on Bengali, Tamil or any other language.

> The Indian Union is an agglomeration of ethno-linguistic nationalities that have their own languages and cultures

Against Hindi imposition

The attempts to impose Hindi have been challenged by non-Hindi-speaking people all over India. The first such protest was organised by E.V. Ramasamy 'Periyar' in Tamil Nadu in August 1937 in opposition to the decision of the C. Rajagopalachari-led Congress regime of making Hindi compulsory in secondary schools. In the Constituent Assembly, members from Hindi-speaking provinces even claimed that those who don't know Hindustani (Hindi) had "no right to stay in India". The language movement in Manbhum district led to the partition of the district between Bihar and West Bengal, and Purulia district was born in 1956. Later, protests broke out in Tamil Nadu against the introduction of Hindi as the sole official language of the Union government. This forced the Union government to amend the Official Languages Act to provide for the use of English until all the non-Hindi-speaking States agreed to drop it. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) has been the most vocal organisation fighting against Hindi imposition. This strong stand has been used by Hindi chauvinists to brand Tamil Nadu as an aberration. However, similar anti-Hindi protests have now arisen in States such as Karnataka, West Bengal, Kerala and Maharashtra.

In light of the country's changing demographics, if parliamentary seats are reallocated, it will widen the fiscal disparity between Hindi-speaking and non-Hindi-speaking States. This plan goes hand in hand with the Union government's continued attacks on State rights.

The boom of India's service sector as well as the success of the educated Indian diaspora was made possible thanks to the proficiency of Indians in English. The link language of the world is English. India's beauty and stability lie in its plurality and unity in diversity. Any attempt to destroy this via the imposition of one language will threaten India's unity. You can either have unity or uniformity; you cannot have both. The Union government must understand that the Indian Union is an agglomeration of ethno-linguistic nationalities that have their own languages and cultures and let them live in peace.

THE HINDU ARCHIVES

A privatisation plan and a political row

Balancing the Centre's agenda with workers' hopes may test the government

STATE OF PLAY

Rajesh B Nair and M. Dinesh Varma
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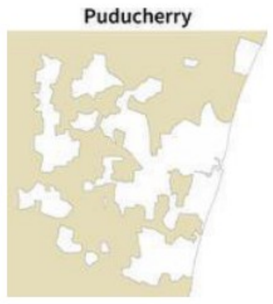
Though the move to privatise power distribution in Puducherry has been in the works for over two years, the issue of a tender notice for bids in late September triggered a backlash that has put the government on the back foot.

On September 27, the Electricity Department called for bids to sell 100% of its shares worth ₹27 crore to a private entity to take over distribution and retail supply of electricity in the Union Territory. As much as the tender represented the reality of imminent privatisation, it was also the specifics relating to the sale that raised red flags for employees and the Opposition. The Opposition viewed the notice as the culmination of an exercise marked by opacity and lack of consultations.

The next day, the joint action council of the Electricity Engineers and Employees' Privatisation/Corporatisation Protest Committee began an indefinite strike demanding scrapping of the tender. The council said Chief Minister N. Rangasamy's had "reneged" on his assurance to hold consultations before proceeding with privatisation. While the government argues that privatisation will "increase efficiency and consumer satisfaction," the council says efficiency of the department could be improved without resorting to privatisation.

When the privatisation proposal came up in 2020, the previous Congress-DMK government headed by Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy declined Cabinet approval and adopted a resolution in the Assembly against the Centre's move. The All India NR Congress-BJP government greenlighted the proposal after Cabinet meetings in November 2021 and May this year.



The strike garnered support from electricity staff in other States. While the Congress, DMK and the Left opposed the move, even the AIADMK, an ally of the AINRC-BJP combine, sought a pause on privatisation until a white paper is brought out. The National Co-ordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers, which has been spearheading a nationwide campaign against privatisation, sent volunteers to stand in solidarity with the workers. Even as sporadic street protests against power outages added to the bad optics for the government, a blackout that plunged Puducherry region into darkness for hours precipitated the crisis. With sabotage suspected, Lt. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan threatened to invoke the Essential Services Maintenance Act against striking employees. Some 24 hours later, the CRPF was called in to protect substation infrastructure. Several hundred workers were rounded up by the police.

Condemning the arrests as "arbitrary", Mr. Narayanasamy lambasted the government for imposing "an undeclared emergency in Puducherry with arbitrary arrests" by deploying the CRPF to intimidate striking workers and protesting citizens.

The All India Trade Union Congress national leadership also decried the arrests and alleged that the NDA was trying to steamroll privatisation in Puducherry. where the BJP was an ally to the government, even as the Electricity (Amendment) Bill was still under the consideration of a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy.

Nearly a week after the strike began, Mr. Rangasamy and Electricity Minister A. Namassivayam held negotiations with the council only to restate the Union Territory's constraints in going against Central policy. They promised to protect employee interest post-privatisation.

The council, which suggested a revision of tender norms to keep 51% of the shares with the government and reduce the private discom stake to 49%, later temporarily withdrew the strike following the government's assurance that it would take up the proposal with the Centre.

The Opposition, which slammed Mr. Rangasamy for failing to take a firm stand in the Cabinet to protect the larger interests of Puducherry, has already restarted the conversation around statehood as the only means of privileging the elected government to oppose the Union government on certain matters. What happens next is crucial in electoral terms for Mr. Rangasamy, who has successfully branded the AINRC as a custodian of regional interests. For the BJP, keen on contesting the lone seat in the 2024 general election, changing public perception about privatisation could be a challenge.

India second only to Russia in doping violations: AIU data

Kamalpreet Kaur's sporting discipline, the discus throw, is one of the least impacted by doping scandals

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan & Rebecca Rose Varghese

Kamalpreet Kaur, the 26-year-old Indian discus thrower, was banned for three years with effect from March 29 after she tested positive for a prohibited substance earlier this year. With Kaur, 62 Indian athletes have been caught doping or in possession of banned substances, according to the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) of World Athletics. Only Russia has recorded more doping violations than India with 87 athletes receiving punishment. **Chart 1** shows the nationalities of the 473 violators recorded by the AIU.

With Kaur's infraction, the number of Indian women with doping violations has gone up to 17. However, over 70% of all doping violations in India were by men. This share decreases to 60% if all the world athletes are considered. **Chart 2** shows the gender-wise split of doping violations in India and the world.

Interestingly, Kaur's sporting discipline (discus throw) is among the least impacted by doping scandals. The world over, most doping violations are by long-distance runners. Globally, close to 33% of all violations were by long-distance runners, 23% by short-distance sprinters and 10% by middle-distance runners. All the other disciplines including games involving throws and jumps formed less than 5% of violations. **Chart 3** shows the discipline-wise split of doping violations the world over. The number of violations by Indian athletes is also annotated in the graph. Four Indian long-distance runners have been caught doping. But with 21 violations, short-distance runners stand out. In total, runners formed about half the Indian doping violations.

This is Kaur's first anti-doping rule violation. Notably, the infraction carries a punishment of four years, but was reduced to three as Kaur admitted to doping within 20 days of receiving the notice. **Chart 4** shows the punishments received by athletes the world over for doping violations. The corresponding number for Indian athletes is annotated in the graph. Close to 56% of athletes got a four-year ban. The share of such athletes increases to 83% if only Indian athletes are considered.

Thirty-six athletes globally have got lifetime bans. Only one such instance has been listed for India. Hammer thrower Jitender Singh was banned for life after testing positive a second time.

Kaur's sample tested positive for Stanozolol metabolites. Stanozolol is a prohibited substance under the WADA 2022 prohibited list. According to the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), Stanozolol is a "synthetic steroid that is derived from testosterone and has anabolic and androgenic properties". **Chart 5** shows the substances used by doping violators the world over. Stanozolol is the most used substance by Indian athletes, with seven being caught using or in possession of the drug.

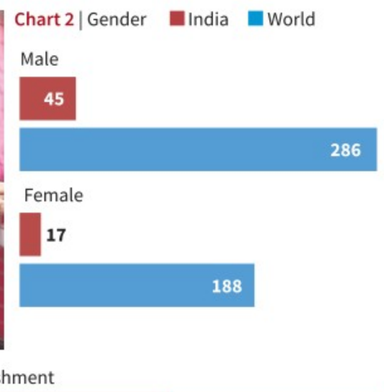
However, EPO is the most commonly used drug the world over, with over 41 athletes getting caught using it. The USADA defines EPO as a "part of a class of substances called Erythropoiesis-Stimulating Agents." It is commonly used for "kidney failure, chemotherapy, and other medical conditions involving red blood cell loss and anaemia." The organisation says that EPO increases red blood cell mass and allows transportation of more oxygen to muscles increasing stamina and performance.

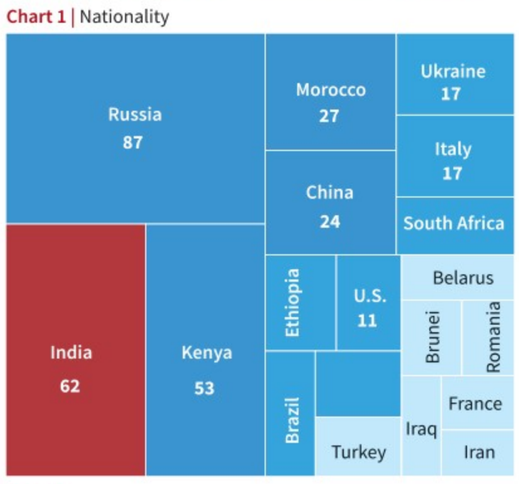
The figures in Chart 5 will not add up to the total number of doping violations as many athletes evade, refuse or fail to submit the samples; some even tamper with them. It also does not include those who used a combination of two drugs.

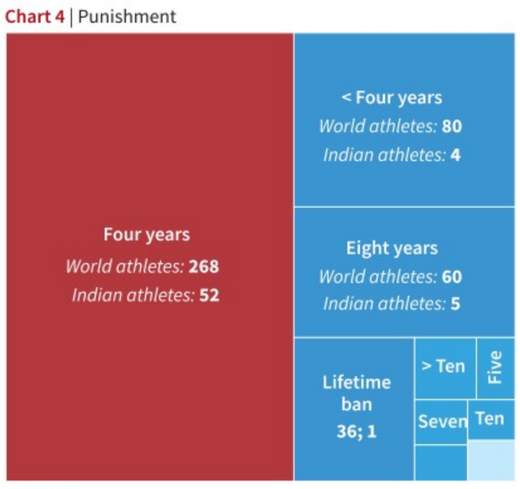
The analysis only includes those athletes listed in the AIU database.

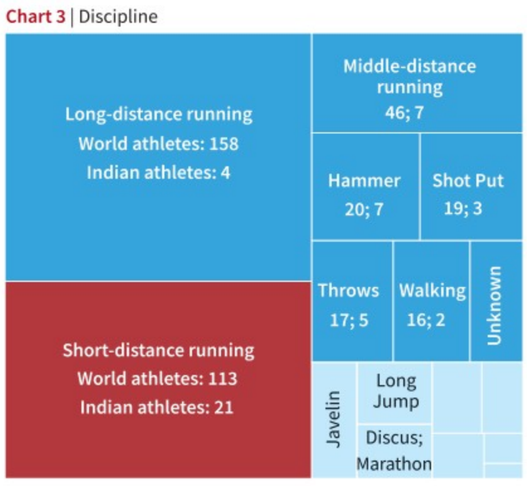
Paying a high price

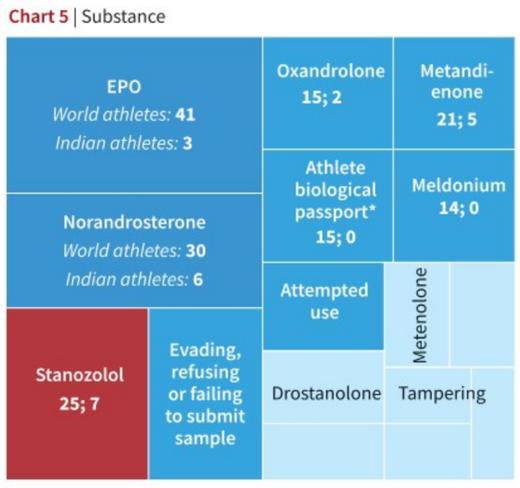
The charts show the nationality, discipline and gender of the sportspersons who have been caught doping or in possession of banned substances according to the full list published by the Athletics Integrity Unit. The charts also depict the punishment meted out to those caught and the substance they used/could have used.











*Biological variables reveal effects of doping. Substance not detected/detection becomes unnecessary

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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 24, 1972

Vietnam talks productive, says Kissinger

Saigon, Oct. 23: The U.S. Embassy here said to-day that progress has been made towards an Indo-China peace settlement, but indicated the United States and South Vietnam still differed on details of a ceasefire and other political issues. The Embassy made the statement shortly after the U.S. Presidential Adviser, Dr. Henry Kissinger, flew to Washington to give President Nixon a pre-election report on his six meetings in five days with the South Vietnamese President, Mr. Nguyen Van Thieu in search of an Indo-China peace formula. Dr. Kissinger himself told newsmen that his intensive conferences with Mr. Thieu and other South Vietnamese officials were productive, but he did not elaborate. The Embassy issued a 20-word official statement saying: "We have made progress. Talks will continue between us and the Government of Vietnam. It is not in the interest of negotiations to be more specific at this time." The meeting between Dr. Kissinger and Mr. Thieu were reported to have centred on working out details of a ceasefire that could be accepted by South Vietnam as well as the communist side. More than 14 hours of talks in the Presidential Palace have been characterised by a continuous Government campaign rejecting the communist proposal for a three-part Government and denouncing any solution which would not lead to a lasting peace. From the President's reactions it appeared that Dr. Kissinger was discussing with Mr. Thieu a form of coalition Government which would involve National Liberation Front participation and go part way towards meeting communist demands.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 24, 1922

Peace conference

London, Oct. 23: Reuter learns that Britain has not asked France to postpone the Near East Conference, which has been fixed to be held at Lausanne on November 13th, and as far as can be ascertained Britain does not intend to request postponement unless some unforseen circumstance arises. This statement evidently refers to the announcement printed by the "Petit Parisien" that Lord Hardinge had handed M. Poincare a note from Lord Curzor, asking for a short postponment of the Near East Conference owing to the British political crisis.

From Page One

Xi's chosen ones

The six leaders joining Xi Jinping on the Politburo Standing Committee share long-standing ties with him

■ **Li Qiang,** 63, worked as Xi's chief of staff in Zhejiang Province where he was party chief in the mid-2000s

■ **Zhao Leji,** 62, like Xi has roots in Shaanxi Province and more recently led Xi's anti-corruption crackdown

■ **Wang Huning,** 67, served as Xi's key ideological czar and has been the brains behind many of Xi's campaigns

■ **Cai Qi,** 67, was the director of Xi's office in Fujian, and the Director of the General Office of the Security Committee

■ **Ding Xuexiang,** 60, had served as Xi's chief of staff as the Director of the General Office of the Party Central Committee

■ **Li Xi,** 66, takes over as head of the CCDI and has had family ties with Xi going back to the 1980s

Xi begins third term with key allies on board

They are, in order of rank, Li Qiang, the former party chief in Shanghai; Zhao Leji, former head of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI); Wang Huning, the ideology czar; Cai Qi, the former Beijing party chief; Ding Xuexiang, Mr. Xi's chief of staff; and Li Xi, the party chief in the key economic powerhouse province of Guangdong.

Second-ranked Mr. Li is likely to take over from outgoing Premier Li Keqiang as the new Premier in March despite criticism of the draconian Shanghai lockdown earlier this year, a sign seen by some observers as reaffirmation of the "zero-COVID" regime, while Mr. Zhao is likely to head the National People's Congress, or Parliament. Mr. Li was on Saturday appointed as the new head of the powerful CCDI, the anti-corruption agency.

Introducing the leadership, Mr. Xi said, "we will not be daunted by high winds, choppy waters or dangerous storms." The CPC, he said, "can only become invincible if it remains committed to self-reform". "The world is grappling with unprecedented challenges," he said. "Just as China cannot develop in isolation from the world, the world needs China for its development," he added, noting that the Chinese economy, which grew only 0.4% in the second quarter, has been weighed down by COVID lockdowns, and presents Mr. Xi his biggest domestic challenge, still had "great resilience". The CPC also named its 24-member Politburo. Foreign Minister Wang Yi's promotion to the body suggests he will take over as top diplomat from retiring Yang Jiechi, while the appointment of He Lifeng suggests he will be Mr. Xi's new economic czar and in charge of shaping economic policy. There were no women in the entire Politburo, a first in 25 years. The CPC congress concluded on Saturday with two surprises. A frail-looking former leader Hu Jintao (79), once a power centre in the party in his own right and more recently known to be in ill-health, was unexpectedly escorted off stage.

The second surprise was the exclusion of former Premier Li Keqiang and formerly fourth-ranked PBSC member Wang Yang – both allies of Mr. Hu – from the new Central Committee that was announced at the congress. Their early retirements paved the way for Sunday's clean sweep of the Party's highest body for Mr. Xi and his allies.

Explosives seized after blast kills man in T.N.

Director-General of Police C. Sylendra Babu told journalists on Sunday evening that the explosion happened when Mubin was carrying the two cylinders and other items, including nails and marbles. He, however, refused to comment whether it was a case of a planned attack on the temple which went awry.

The DGP, however, said the police found a cache of explosive materials, including potassium nitrate, aluminium powder, sulphur and charcoal from the residence of Mubin, an engineering graduate. "Going by the materials seized from his house, this [materials in the car] could have been meant for a possible plan [for attack] in the future," he said. According to Mr. Babu, Mubin had to cross a police checkpost in the area, after the temple. The explosion could have happened when he tried to get away, said the police chief. The body of Mubin was shifted to the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital. Mr. Babu said Mubin did not have involvement in any case in Coimbatore unlike some of his friends. His contacts, social media activities, etc., are being examined. However, police sources claimed that the National Investigation Agency had questioned Mubin once in 2019.

U.K. is ready to support manufacture of Indian jet engines, says envoy

High Commissioner Alex Ellis says the U.K. has offered help to the Indian government, and India will be absolutely central to ensuring a safe and open Indo-Pacific; earlier, the U.K. had offered collaboration in the development of aircraft carrier and sixth generation fighter technologies

Dinakar Peri
GANDHINAGAR

Making a strong pitch for joint collaboration, Alex Ellis, the U.K. High Commissioner in India, said what engine maker Rolls-Royce is ready to do and the British government ready to support is the indigenisation of design and manufacture of Indian jet engines something which "I don't think any other partner in the world has offered up to now".

They are now waiting for the Indian government to make a decision, he said.

The strong pitch comes as India considers offers from the world's top engine manufacturers to jointly develop an aero-engine for its future indigenous fighter jets.

"What the U.K. brings is high levels of expertise and technology in everything from missiles to engines. What India can bring is huge scale, and of course a significant market. And all has to be done through the prism of Make in India and Make for the World. So, what I'd also like to see is not only British companies tying up with Indian companies but also looking at how they can export," Mr. Ellis said in a brief conversation with *The Hindu* at DefExpo.

"We've seen that on the civil side. I'll give you one example. JCB now exports from India to over 100 countries around the world. And I think we need to accelerate that work on the defence side."

Future programme

Elaborating, he said the governments of India and the U.K. have already done scoping of what the future programme might look like and now the next step is for the Indian government to decide what it wants to do in terms of building a more powerful engine. The High Commissioner said Rolls-Royce has the capability both in civil and military aviation.

> India will be absolutely central to ensuring a safe and open Indo-Pacific and that is a strong U.K. interest and a strong Indian interest as well
>
> **ALEX ELLIS**
> U.K. High Commissioner

Earlier, the U.K. had offered India collaboration in development of aircraft carrier and sixth generation fighter technologies. Development of a fighter engine is among the top priorities for India, for which it is considering three global engine makers – General Electric of the U.S., Rolls-Royce of the U.K. and Safran of France – for joint collaboration.

To a question on how the U.K. can support India as its diversifies its military arsenal with emphasis on indigenisation, Mr. Ellis said, "We have seen the kind of disastrous consequences of Russia's completely unwarranted invasion of Ukraine. And we've also seen the effectiveness of Ukrainian response with support from the U.K. and other countries. And that's what we're going to see over the next few years, the growth of trust and partnerships between countries like the U.K. and India..."

At the Expo, India and the U.K. announced a new defence industry joint working group to strengthen defence collaboration, which also held its first meeting.

Pointing out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson met last year and again this year, he said there is a comprehensive strategic partnership because "we want to have a much deeper and more structured relationship". "And the future, frankly, is a tougher one, both in the Indo-Pacific and also in the European theatre and we can actually gain strength from being together," Mr. Ellis said.

On the Indo-Pacific where the U.K. has been very active and the high tempo of military military engagements, the High Commissioner said the Indo-Pacific is not just about defence and security, but "a whole host of things", including research, students, commercial collaborations, and one element of it is defence and security. "India will be absolutely central to ensuring a safe and open Indo-Pacific and that is a strong U.K. interest and a strong Indian interest as well," he stressed.

We had the biggest deployment of U.K. Navy since the end of the Cold War this time last year into the Indo-Pacific, Mr. Ellis noted and also referred to the tri-service exercise with India. "I would expect us to see an increasing tempo of military to military cooperation, particularly with an eye on the Indian Ocean and want to create a shared understanding and ability to act together," he added.

There has been a sharp increase in India's military engagements in the Indian Ocean Region and the Indo-Pacific. For instance, the Malabar naval exercise comprising of India, Australia, Japan and the U.S. is scheduled to be hosted by Japan in November, while the India-U.S. bilateral Army exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' is set to he held in Uttarakhand early November.

After 10 years, sacked workers at Maruti plant seek reinstatement

Ashok Kumar
GURUGRAM

Devender Dhankar, 39, had been working at the Maruti company for around seven years as a permanent worker when he was dismissed in the wake of the violence at the company's Manesar plant on July 18, 2012. He claimed that he was at the company's dispensary when the violence broke out. For that reason and since he had not been well, his name did not appear on the Special Investigation Team's list of accused workers. However, he was sacked along with 546 permanent workers by the company, citing "loss of confidence".

Sacked workers staging a protest outside the mini-Secretariat in Gurugram on October 11 and 12. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A resident of Rohtak's Bakheta village, Mr. Dhankar owns less than an acre of agricultural land. He works as a contract farmer and rears cattle to make ends meet. "I tried to find a job for the first few years after the incident but was turned away every time because of my past as a sacked Maruti worker, despite there being no charges against me. I then gave up. Anyway, we are a small family with limited expenses and can manage with what we are earning," said Mr. Dhankar.

Mr. Dhankar, who took part in a two-day hunger strike outside the mini-Secretariat here on October 11 and 12, along with fellow sacked Maruti workers, in support of their demand for reinstatement, is determined to get his job back some day. "I want to get my job back with Maruti, even if it is only for a day," he reiterated.

Spearheading the sacked workers' legal battle for reinstatement, Jitender Kumar, who was also among those dismissed from the job in the aftermath of the violence, said that around 150 workers joined the agitation and support poured in from workers' and trade unions in the Gurugram-Manesar-Bawal auto belt.

"The matter has been lingering in the labour court for six years now. So, we decided to get united again and hold an agitation to press for reinstatement. Of the 546 permanent workers sacked by the company in 2012, 426 were terminated citing 'loss of confidence' without any internal probe and were not on the SIT's list of accused persons. We moved court in 2016 saying that it was illegal," said Mr. Kumar, a resident of Rewari.

He said the case of one of the workers, Ram Niwas, was slated for final arguments on November 21 at Gurugram Labour Court and the decision could decide the fate of the rest of the cases running separately. "Of the 546 workers, only 340 chose to pursue the matter legally. So, the decision in the case of Ram Niwas could decide the fate of the remaining cases with similar grounds and circumstances," said Mr. Kumar.

Of the 148 workers arrested in connection with the violence at the plant, the trial court at Gurugram in 2017 had convicted 31 workers and acquitted 117.

'Deesa base fills gaps in airfields between Gujarat, Rajasthan'

Dinakar Peri
GANDHINAGAR

The new Deesa airfield to be constructed in Gujarat close to the western border fills a huge gap between airbases in Gujarat and Rajasthan, Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari told *The Hindu* at DefExpo.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone virtually last week at the expo, where he said the forward base will add to the security architecture of the country.

The new airbase will help optimise fuel-carrying by aircraft in addition to balancing Pakistan's recent upgrades in the area, a defence official stated, while adding that the base would also be well protected while allowing the Air Force to launch offensive operations when required.

The project received sanction from the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) in March 2018 at a cost of ₹997.63 crore and will be executed in two phases. Of this, ₹935.74 crore has been earmarked for 'works services' for creation of infrastructure, a defence official said. The tender has been awarded and work is ready to commence, officials said.

The base will also play a vital role in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions in the region, a second source stated, adding that the base will also improve overall air connectivity in the region with the current thrust for regional connectivity under the UDAN scheme.

Mr. Modi had said that India is now better prepared to respond to any misadventure on the western borders. "After coming to government, we decided to set up an operational base in Deesa, and this expectation of our forces is being fulfilled today. This region will now become an effective centre of security of the country," he added.

Railway Police begin probe over *namaz* on train video

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The Railway Police have ordered an investigation after a video of a group of passengers offering *namaz* on a moving train went viral on social media platforms.

It is said that the train was the Satyagraha Express and the video was shot around the Kushinagar railway station by BJP leader Deeplal Bharti.

The Hindu cannot independently verify the authenticity of the video.

After the video went viral, Awadesh Singh, Railway's Superintendent of Police said, "The police have taken cognisance of the issue, after investigation further action will be taken."

After a year's futile wait for BRO, villagers in Mizoram start repairing 18-km road

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Work on the ₹18.94-cr. project was to have started in November 2020 and completed in a year

Villagers of Mamit district in Mizoram have started repairing an 18-km stretch of a strategic road that the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) should have completed a year ago.

Local units of the Young Mizo Association (YMA), a social organisation connecting members of the Mizo ethnic community across the globe, mobilised the residents affected by the "unrideable" stretch of the Sairang-Tuipuibari road for the mass voluntary work that began on October 20.

According to the YMA, the BRO was entrusted with maintaining this road under Project Pushpak through the 74 Road Construction Company/24 Border Road Task Force.

The voluntary work was undertaken six months after H. Lalthanchama, an advocate and resident of West Phaileng town, sent a legal notice to the Director-General of the BRO and other officials besides the contractor and sub-contractors of the project. None of them responded to the legal notice.

"The villagers cannot recall any work done in more than three decades to repair the road," Mr. Lalthanchama told *The Hindu*.

Sangzuala Sailo, the secretary of the Joint YMA, said people take at least an hour and a half to cover the 18 km stretch between Dapchhuah and West Phaileng. The duration doubles during the monsoon season. The Sairang-Tuipuibari road is the lifeline for over 25,000 people. The time taken for the locals to cover the short stretch often leads to delayed treatment for the people.

The work on the road repair project, estimated at ₹18.94 crore, was to have started in November 2020 and completed by November 2021. Officials of the BRO did not respond to the complaints of the Mizoram villagers.

Three held for raping nurse in Chhattisgarh

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Three suspects, including a minor, were arrested by the Chhattisgarh Police for allegedly raping a nurse at a health centre in Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur district, the police said on Sunday. A fourth suspect is absconding.

The police said that on Friday, the men gagged and tied the woman, filmed the assault and threatened to kill her.

"Three accused went inside the health centre. The victim said, one of them raped her while the other two assisted him," said Deputy Superintendent of Police Nimesh Bariyya.

APPEAL

Sajina is a 34 years old lady suffering from Muscular Dystrophy. She underwent Spinal Cord surgery and requires urgently a 16" Electric Wheel Chair which costs around **Rs.1,00,000/-**. The family is extremely poor and cannot afford this high cost. Kindly donate for this noble cause. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No. 60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/28235324. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

WWS

Neither Gandhi family nor its organisations above law, says BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> Even the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund meant for help during disasters and accidents was donated to the RGF
>
> **SAMBIT PATRA**
> BJP spokesperson

The BJP on Sunday welcomed the Centre's decision to cancel the FCRA licences of two NGOs headed by former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, saying that the Gandhi family and the organisations linked to it cannot be above the law.

Addressing a press conference here at the BJP headquarters here, party spokesperson Sambit Patra said the action against the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) and the Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust (RGCT) had "exposed" corruption in the two organisations. He said the Narendra Modi government had acted as per law and added that the RGF had in the past accepted donations from controversial preacher Zakir Naik, the Chinese government and its embassy in Delhi, and Rana Kapoor, the founder of Yes Bank, who is currently under investigation on corruption charges.

Mr. Patra said Ms. Gandhi ran "the UPA government and the NGOs with extra-constitutional authority" and added that these NGOs had received patronage from the then ruling dispensation as several Ministries and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) donated huge sums to them.

"Even the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund meant for help during disasters and accidents was donated to the RGF. The Gandhi family is present wherever there is corruption," he said.

Home Ministry cancels FCRA licences of two NGOs headed by Sonia

An inter-ministerial committee, formed in 2020, carried out investigations and found 'several irregularities' by the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and the Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has cancelled the FCRA registration of two non-governmental organisations (NGO) headed by Congress leader Sonia Gandhi owing to irregularities, a senior government official said on Sunday.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are also associated with the NGOs.

Registration under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act is mandatory to receive foreign funds. The cancellation makes the two NGOs ineligible to receive foreign funds.

Ms. Gandhi is the chairperson of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) and the Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust (RGCT).

After the Galwan Valley incident of June 15, 2020, when Rahul Gandhi sharpened his attack accusing the government of surrendering territory to China, the ruling BJP had accused the two Congress-linked NGOs of receiving foreign funds from the Chinese government in 2005-06.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are also associated with the NGOs. RGFINDIA.ORG

The Home Ministry constituted an inter-ministerial probe committee on July 8, 2020 to probe the allegations.

Two years after the committee was formed, the Ministry recently cancelled the registration of the two NGOs.

"There were several irregularities by the two NGOs in the way the FCRA registration was being used, following the probe, the registration was cancelled," the official said. The annual returns filed in December 2021 show that the NGOs did not receive any foreign donation in the financial year 2020-21, but the account balance stood at ₹11.5 crore for the RGCT and ₹13.5 crore for the RGF.

The two NGOs

The RGCT, a registered, not-for-profit organisation, was established in 2002 and is located at Jawahar Bhawan on Rajendra Prasad Road, a prime location in central Delhi. Ms. Gandhi is the chairperson of the trust and Mr. Gandhi is a member of the Board of Trustees. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is one of the biggest donors to the RGCT.

The RGF was set up in 1991. Ms. Gandhi is the chairperson, and the Board of Trustees includes former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, P. Chidambaram, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Suman Dubey, Rahul Gandhi, Ashok Ganguly and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. It is also located at Jawahar Bhavan.

Govt. recycling old charge to divert attention from real issues, will take appropriate legal action, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Alleging that old charges are being "recycled" at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) and the Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust (RGCT) to "defame and divert attention", the Congress on Sunday said both trusts will respond with appropriate legal action to all the charges hurled at them.

In a statement, Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh said the cancellation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) licence of the two non-profit organisations, headed by members of the Gandhi family, was the Narendra Modi government's response to the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

He said the economy was in deep crisis caused by spiralling prices, galloping unemployment and a falling rupee, and people were fed up with "the politics of hate and divisiveness".

"What is the response of the PM [Prime Minister] and HM [Home Minister]? Over the Deepavali weekend, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, cancelled the FCRA registrations of both the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and the Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust. They recycle old charges against the RGF and the RGCT. This is to defame and divert public attention from issues of day-to-day concern to them," Mr. Ramesh said.

In the detailed statement, Mr. Ramesh said the RGF was established in 1991 after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi to promote the ideas of *sadbhavana* (goodwill) among citizens and with other nations; focus on inclusive and sustainable development of India using science and technology, including IT and Telecom; empower women and youth and promote local self-government right up to the panchayat level; and provide relief to those affected by natural disasters.

"Lakhs of people, including children, youth, women, and the disabled have benefited from the programmes of these trusts. The RGCT works in northern India with a focus on the poorest regions of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan through development initiatives," he said.

He said the RGCT, registered in 2002 as a professionally managed, not-for-profit institution to work toward the economic and social empowerment of women in Uttar Pradesh, had impacted the lives of more than 20 lakh poor households in the State.

He added that the Indira Gandhi Eye Hospital and Research Centre had so far provided comprehensive and quality eye care to around 40 lakh patients, including over 4.5 lakh sight-restoring surgeries.

"The trusts have always been purely charitable in nature and comply with all laws and regulations. All statutory requirements of audit, programme activity and financial disclosure, and filing of returns have been scrupulously followed every year by the trusts. The background for the cancellation of the FCRA registration should be obvious to anyone who understands the nature of the present dispensation," he alleged.

"RGF and RGCT will be responding to the charges hurled at them and take whatever action they deem appropriate legally. Their activities are completely open and transparent. They have rendered yeoman public service."

INBRIEF

Southwest monsoon exits country a week late, says IMD

The southwest monsoon withdrew from the entire country on Sunday, a week later than normal, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. India witnessed a normal monsoon season for the fourth consecutive year with 925 mm rainfall which was 106% of the long-period average (LPA) of 880 mm. "The southwest monsoon has withdrawn from the remaining parts of the country today, October 23," the IMD said. A late surge by the monsoon in September helped cut the large deficit in rainfall in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and the northeast, but not before impacting the paddy crop in some States. Rain continued to linger on beyond September 30, which marks the end of the southwest monsoon season, mainly due to two cyclonic circulations active over Madhya Pradesh and south Gujarat and its interaction with the mid-latitude weather systems.PTI

'Don't betray farmers, declare wet drought immediately'

In his first visit outside Mumbai after the fall of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government, Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday toured Aurangabad district in the Marathwada region, which has been ravaged by the withdrawing monsoon. Targeting the Eknath Shinde government for being insensitive to the plight of farmers, Mr. Thackeray demanded that it declare 'wet drought' across the State on an urgent basis to bring relief to the farmers. "There is an excess rain of hollow government announcements and a drought of sensitivity on its part... On behalf of farmers, I demand that they should get ₹50,000 per hectare as compensation," he said.

Sharad Pawar to join Bharat Jodo Yatra in Maharashtra

NCP president Sharad Pawar on Sunday said he will participate in the Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra when it enters Maharashtra as an attempt is being made through it to bring harmony in society. Talking to presspersons here, Mr. Pawar said State Congress leaders Ashok Chavan and Balasaheb Thorat had met him and extended an invitation to participate in the Bharat Jodo Yatra, a mass outreach programme, when it enters the State on November 7. Mr. Pawar said, "The *yatra* is a Congress party programme. But through this initiative, an attempt is being made to bring harmony in the society. So some of us from different parties will join the *yatra* wherever possible when it is in the State." PTI

Govt. should come clean on Mattoo incident, says Press Club

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Press Club of India has demanded that the Union government come clean on the decision to prevent the Pulitzer prize-winning photojournalist Sanah Mattoo from travelling to the U.S. to receive the award.

"On one hand, the government is making all efforts to integrate Kashmir with the national mainstream, on the other hand such actions will only act as deterrents and further aid in alienating people from Kashmir," it said.

The Press Club said, "We note with concern that this is the second time in four months that she has been stopped from travelling abroad. If allowed to attend the prize-giving ceremony, she would have only added to the prestige of the country. Moreover, she has been granted a valid visa by the U.S. government for her travel."

Earlier, the U.S. State Department had said it was tracking the story of Ms. Mattoo, who was stopped from boarding a Delhi-New York flight on October 17.

In eight years, country has broken shackles of inferiority complex: Modi

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Ayodhya on the eve of Deepavali on Sunday and offered prayers to Lord Ram at Ram Janmbhoomi. This is Mr. Modi's first visit to the city after the *bhoomi pujan* for the construction of the Ram Temple on August 5, 2020.

In his speech at the Ram Katha Park on the occasion of Deepotsav, the Prime Minister said the values inculcated by Lord Ram's life would provide guidance to achieve India's aspirations for the next 25 years even in difficult times. "To fulfil the vision of a developed India in the centenary year of its Independence, we must look up to Lord Ram, whose entire life is a teaching in itself. Lord Ram is the living embodiment of true religion and duty; in every role, he emphasised the most on duties," Mr. Modi said.

Mr. Modi added that Lord Ram did not leave anyone behind, and did not turn away from anyone. Mr. Modi was also informed by officials of the Uttar Pradesh government about the progress in the construction of the Ram Temple.

Festive occasion: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath in Ayodhya on Sunday. PTI

New direction

Mr. Modi said there was a time when questions were raised about Lord Ram's existence but today not only Ayodhya's glorious tradition had been revived but also the city was being developed with new infrastructure, roads, intersections, and redevelopment and beautification of the ghats.

"In the past eight years, the country has broken the shackles of inferiority complex. Our pilgrim sites are witnessing holistic development, while projects worth thousands of crores are under way in Ayodhya," Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister urged citizens to take pride in country's heritage and become free from any kind of slavery. "As Lord Ram saw Lanka, he did not feel any inferiority complex but took pride in his traditions, customs, countrymen and motherland. For Lord Ram, Ayodhya was his *swarg;* we also need to take pride in India's culture and heritage," Mr. Modi added.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Modi performed the *rajyabhishek* (symbolic coronation) of Lord Ram and offered prayers to Ram Lala at Ram Janmbhoomi.

Deepotsav was celebrated in Ayodhya with over 17 lakh earthen lamps in the presence of the Prime Miniser.

Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, and many other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Apart from Ayodhya, Mr. Modi also visited Uttarakhand's religious places on the eve of Deepavali and laid the foundation stone of various connectivity projects worth nearly ₹3,000 crores, including the Kedarnath-Gaurikund ropeway that will reduce travel time from nine hours to only about 30 to 45 minutes.

On Friday, Mr. Modi offered prayers at the Kedarnath temple and reviewed the temples development work.

On Saturday, he went to the Badrinath temple and also reviewed the projects taken up under the Badrinath master plan.

Bengal sends report on PMAY-G corrections, awaits Centre's response

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Amid the ongoing tussle between the Union Rural Development Ministry and the West Bengal government over violations of "core features" of Centrally sponsored schemes, the State government has sent in a detailed report of corrective measures taken by it for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin). Now the ball is in the Centre's court on releasing the dues to West Bengal.

As on September 30, 91.05% of the targeted houses have been sanctioned. This figure includes those under construction and those that have been completed. The scheme was originally slated to end in March 2022, but was extended because of the pandemic.

Earlier this year, the Centre refused to release funds to sanction 11 lakh houses in West Bengal after BJP MPs from the State accused the Trinamool Congress government of appropriating the scheme to politically exploit it. They claimed that the Mamata Banerjee government repackaged the scheme as "Bangla Awas Yojana", prominently displaying the State logo eclipsing the scheme's original name. Based on their complaint, the Union Rural Development Ministry accused the State of tampering with the core features of scheme, and withheld funds.

The Centre has also withheld funds amounting to ₹7,000 crore to West Bengal for MGNREGS on various procedural lapses.RAJU V.

In parallel, the Centre has withheld funds amounting to ₹7000 crore to West Bengal for MGNREGS on various procedural lapses.

Between July and August, the Centre had sent teams to 15 districts of West Bengal to inspect the implementation and had submitted a detailed report flagging "citizens information board, size of dwelling units, availability of toilets and LPG connections, allegation of bribery, display of official name of the scheme and so on".

The State government though has countered the other allegations such as 'wrongful rejection".

The Centre had accused the State government of "picking and choosing" the beneficiaries, though the list of beneficiaries in case of PMAY-G was concretised from the Socio-Economic Caste Census of 2011.

Citing specific cases, the State government has said that no new beneficiaries were added or subtracted to the list.

INBRIEF

'Do not insult common man by calling facilities as freebies'

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday took to Twitter to ask why people, who are worried by inflation, should not get access to free education, medicine and electricity, and said that by calling such things free, the common man should not be insulted. Mr. Kejriwal was commenting on a news report in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that taxpayers get sad when they see that free *revri* is being distributed with the money collected from taxes. "...Politicians get so many facilities for free. Banks waived the loans of so many rich people. By calling it free *revri* again and again, do not insult the common man," Mr. Kejriwal said in a tweet in Hindi.

Rape convict 'kind enough', says M.P. court; reduces term

Stating that a rape convict "was kind enough to leave a four-year-old alive", the Indore Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court recently reduced his life sentence to 20 years rigorous imprisonment. The convict Ramu alias Ramsingh had appealed against the life imprisonment sentence awarded to him by the Additional Sessions Judge, Indore, in a 2009 judgment. Ramsingh's lawyer told the court that he had been falsely implicated, that he had already spent 15 years in jail since the time of his arrest, and "his sentence may be reduced to the sentence already undergone by him". However, the High Court did not overturn the conviction.

Dip in maternal, child death cases in Assam: NHM data

Monthly monitoring of health-related activities by special teams in each district has led to a dip in maternal and child mortality cases in Assam, officials in the State's National Health Mission (NHM) said. According to data provided by NHM Assam, 289 maternal death cases were reported from April to September in the State this year compared to 389 during the same period in 2021, showing a decline of 25%. Similarly, 3,523 children died during April-September this year compared to 3,842 over the same period in 2021. The decline in this case was by 8.3%.

Sitrang very likely to become severe cyclonic storm: IMD

The deep depression over the Bay of Bengal intensified into a cyclone on Sunday evening and is very likely to gather further strength becoming a severe cyclonic storm before crossing the Bangladesh coast on October 25 (Tuesday) morning, the IMD said. The cyclone, named Sitrang by Thailand, is likely to have wind speed reaching 90 kmph to 100 kmph gusting to 110 kmph and cause heavy to very heavy rain in the coastal districts of West Bengal and isolated heavy rain in north coastal Odisha, it said. At 5.30 p.m. on Sunday, the cyclone was 580 km south of Sagar Island in West Bengal and 740 km south-southwest of Barisal in Bangladesh, the IMD statement added. PTI

Five new varieties to expand India's Basmati platter

SPECIAL

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

Five new Basmati varieties, developed by a group of scientists led by Ashok Kumar Singh, Director, Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), in 2020 and 2021 are all set to bring revolutionary changes in the way this type of paddy is cultivated in the country.

Three of the five varieties can resist two common diseases of paddy. The other two can save 35% of the water now required as the seeds can be directly sown, obviating the need for transplanting seedlings. These two seeds are resistant to herbicides too, helping the farmers control weeds more efficiently. In the next three years, all of the five seeds will have the combined qualities of disease and herbicide resistance, Dr. Singh says.

"This is a landmark achievement. We started the research in 2008. This is 100% indigenous revolution using indigenous breeding programmes," Dr. Singh told *The Hindu*. "This will help in increasing farmers' income by reducing the cost of cultivation, by improving production and by realising price of their labour and input cost. The cost of cultivation will be reduced. It will reduce the use of pesticides and water. If the production is free from residue, it will get better prices," he explained.

Greener pastures: Ashok Kumar Singh, Director, IARI, at a paddy field site in New Delhi. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Export in mind

India is known for its Basmati rice, with the produce from seven States – Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand – earmarked for Geographical Indication.

Basmati, known for its mouthfeel, aroma, length of the grain when cooked and taste, has a market abroad and brings about ₹30,000 crore in foreign exchange every year. While 75% of the export is to West Asian countries, European Union countries also import Indian Basmati. However, recently, the export to EU countries faced certain hurdles due to the increase in the pesticide residue levels in the rice from India.

Dr. Singh says that over a period of time, as the area of cultivation increased, traditional varieties become susceptible to two major diseases – bacterial leaf blight (BLB) and blast (leaf and collar) diseases caused by the fungus *Magnaporthe oryzae*. Pesticides and fungicides used against these diseases increased the residue levels permitted in developed countries.

"Achieving the permitted levels is very difficult if we are using pesticides for controlling pests. The only way was that we bring in genetic resistance so that we do not have to spray pesticides and fungicides. So, from Pusa Basmati 1121, we developed Pusa Basmati 1885; from Pusa Basmati 1509, we developed Pusa Basmati 1847; Pusa Basmati 1401 was improved to develop Pusa Basmati 1886. All these varieties have two genes to resist BLB and two genes to resist blast disease. Farmers need not use pesticides and it will decrease the cost of farming by ₹3,000 an acre. Because of effective disease control, production will increase and most important, there is no question of pesticide residue and our consignments will not be rejected," Dr. Singh says.

The response

The IARI provided one kilogram each of the seeds to about 10,000 farmers in these seven States in 2021. "They had grown these crops during this kharif season. In the last week of September, I travelled 1,500 kilometres to see for myself how the crop is doing and to hear the feedback from farmers. I stayed at the residences of farmers. There is phenomenal response for these varieties. I am hoping that from next year, these varieties will change the scenario of Basmati cultivation and it will directly help in terms of addressing the problem of pesticides residue," Dr. Singh says, sharing hopes of an increased coverage area in the next crop year. "I have asked farmers to keep this year's produce for next year as seeds," he adds.

The traditional way of paddy cultivation relied on transplanting the plants into a water-filled field midway through the cycle.

"Around 3,000 litres of water is required for one kilogram of Basmati rice. This has impacted the water table of States such as Punjab and Haryana. We have to change the practice of cultivating transplanted variety of paddy to direct sowing of rice (DSR). Water saving is 35% in DSR and the requirement will be 2,000 litres for a kilogram of rice. The second advantage is that the green house gas emission is reduced by 35% as water is not stagnating in this process. Labour cost of transplantation, which is about ₹3,000, is also saved. Overall saving will be at least ₹4,000 per acre," he says.

However, one of the major problem in the DSR is weeds. Without the water acting as a herbicide, the DSR method allows for a lot of weeds to crop up in the field. "So, we transferred a gene that is resistant to a herbicide. So, when farmers spray herbicide, weeds will be killed, not paddy," he says.

Teachers' training key to NCF implementation, say experts

Identifying gaps in pedagogy, acquainting teachers with new methods essential for implementing framework effectively, they say; curriculum recommends more than just learning from textbooks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Curriculum Framework for foundational age children provides an "organic" and "well-framed" road map for teaching three- to eight-year-olds, but will be difficult to implement in the absence of proper teacher training and infrastructure support, experts say.

Educationists who have done substantial work in elementary methods of teaching said that the NCERT or the State Boards and the SCERTs need to involve teachers as they are the primary stakeholders.

"It is good that this (NCF) got released. It is necessary, but far from sufficient. Leaving it here would make it incomplete," Shaveta Sharma-Kukreja, CEO of the Central Square Foundation, told *The Hindu*.

Ms. Kukreja said that the timing of the NCF was right and so was the focus on early education. Now it was for the NCERT and SCERTs to identify the gaps in the current pedagogy so that the NCF could be implemented.

Novel ways: The NCF favours an interactive curriculum using story-telling techniques. ISTOCKPHOTO/VIKRAM RAGHUVANSHI

According to Vineet Nayar, founder and chairperson of Sampark Foundation, implementation would need "frugal" and "innovative" ideas that disrupt the resistance to change and resource constraints.

The guidelines should talk of how to implement rather than just stop at what to implement, he said.

The NCF 2022 for foundational age groups favours developing an interactive curriculum for children at various levels using story-telling techniques and real-life experiences. It says board games and stories from the Panchatantra should be used to teach children in the 6-8 age group.

For the first three years of the foundational stage, that is three to six years, there should not be any prescribed textbooks. Rather, simple worksheets are more than sufficient to meet the curricular goals, says the document.

It also recommends that the mother tongue should be the primary medium of instruction for children till eight years of age, in both public and private schools. English could be one of the second language options, it says, without giving any time-frame for introducing the language.

It is here, educationists feel, that the real challenge lies. "It is an ideal document, but are we really ready for this?" asks Ameeta Mulla Wattal, chairperson and executive director of education (innovations and training) at DLF Foundation Schools. " ...Teachers have to be trained, whether it is on using the mother tongue or thematic concepts in pedagogy. We need to activate public and private agencies and involve Corporate Social Responsibility in teacher training," she said.

36 satellites launched by ISRO's heaviest rocket send signals

Sangeetha Kandavel
CHENNAI

PTI

The Indian Space Research Organisation's heaviest rocket, Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3 or GSLV Mark 3), which took off from the second launch pad (SLP) of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota at 12.07 a.m. on Sunday has successfully put into orbit 36 satellites of the U.K.-based OneWeb.

The 43.5-metre LVM3 weighing around 644 tonnes carried 36 satellites weighing 5,796 kg. OneWeb's satellites separated successfully from the rocket and were dispensed in nine phases, with signal acquisition on all 36 satellites confirmed. With this launch, LVM3 has made its entry into the global commercial launch market.

LVM3-M2 is the dedicated commercial satellite mission of NewSpace India Ltd. (NSIL), a Central public sector enterprise (CPSE) under the Department of Space. This mission is being undertaken as part of the commercial arrangement between NSIL and Network Access Associates Ltd. (OneWeb Ltd.), which is a joint venture between India's Bharti Enterprises and the U.K. government.

Addressing pressperson an hour after take-off, ISRO Chairman S. Somanath said, "Today's event is very historic to the country and the Indian Space programme. This is the first ever commercial launch of LVM3 with a heaviest payload to LEO. The LVM3 was conceived primarily for launching geostationary satellites with a payload capacity of 4T, which can be used for launching 6T payloads for LEO."

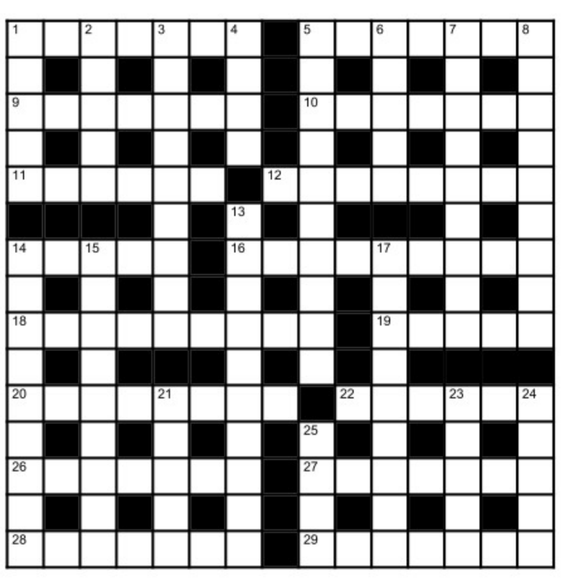
Sunil Bharti Mittal, CEO of Bharti Enterprises, whose company is one of the biggest investors in OneWeb, said it is a new chapter for India in the space sector.

TH CROSSWORD + 13693

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Goddess of wealth left most of Kashmir poor (7)
5 By-product of pins (4-3)
9 Snake around grid's core instrument (7)
10 Distinctive style of trade structured by firm (3-4)
11 Very hard to mingle with Asia's diverse religious cult (6)
12 Where's our centre stocking supply? (8)
14 Consume Soan papdi from start to finish (5)
16 Festooned doors at the front forced cycles outside house, essentially (7,2)
18 Space voyager from America flying to Saturn (9)
19 Dislike dropping navy boot again (5)
20 Exotic batik wraps, with one string at the waist in Micronesian island (8)
22 Say, laddu and Mysore Pak in small packet finally in vessel (6)
26 Removing records from stage to perform (7)
27 Reserved soldier (7)
28 Musicians impress in Gershwin's shows (7)
29 Saw entrance becoming bigger and bright (7)

Down

1 Diyas in many circles outside (5)
2 Regularly farmers ask about fate (5)
3 He moved freely around one old film archive (4,5)
4 Author's initially awed by cinema (4)
5 Doctor attests about soldiers in reports (10)
6 Lead in iron oxidising over time (5)
7 Partly superimposed irrevocably around eclipses (9)
8 Fine cow picks up best Diwali cracker? (6,3)
13 Gains from commercial vehicle supported by Tesla forever (10)
14 Sticks with light champagnes? (9)
15 Receive dubious internet article (9)
17 Extending rule well, per Spooner (9)
21 Newly wed waits briefly to get registered (5)
23 Specific claim (5)
24 Mount support in empty shed (5)
25 Work on gangster's precious stone (4)

SUDOKU

								5
	8		2	5	4			9
		1			6			
4	5				8	6		
		7				5		
		9	4				8	7
			1			2		
7			3	8	9		4	
3								

No.SS5598 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

B	S	V	A	T	T	R		
F	R	E	E	H	A	N	D	
H	A	R	D	E	N			
U	N	N	V	I	A	N		
I	N	A	D	E	Q	U	A	T
E	N	E	T	S				
E	U	N	V	S	F			
D	I	W	A	L	I	C	R	E
E	P	E	R	S				
C	S	E	L	E				
G	N	O	C	C	H	I	S	P
E	A	K	E	R				
O	E	S	R	N				
T	R	U	S	T	F	U	L	O
U	T	G	U	N				
M	S	A	I	C	N			
M	A	G	I	T	A	T	T	L
E	T	A	L	E				
L	B	I	H	A	H	O		
S	L	A	L	O	M	E	X	I
G	E	N	C	Y				
Y	E	A	R	M	M	K		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	7	8	1	9	3	5	4	2
5	3	1	4	2	8	6	9	7
4	9	2	6	7	5	3	1	8
7	4	6	3	8	1	9	2	5
1	8	3	2	5	9	7	6	4
2	5	9	7	4	6	8	3	1
8	6	4	9	1	7	2	5	3
9	1	5	8	3	2	4	7	6
3	2	7	5	6	4	1	8	9

FAITH

Celebration of Deepavali

Deepavali is celebrated across the country. In north India, people believe that Lord Rama, after defeating Ravana, returned to Ayodhya on this day. People lit lamps welcoming Him. In south India, it is linked to Lord Krishna.

Celebration of Deepavali is viewed in two ways. One from the Puranas and the other from the Dharma Sastras.

According to Vishnu Purana, Narakasura was born to Lord Vishnu and Mother Earth (Bhudevi) during the Lord's incarnation as Varaha (wild boar). When Narakasura was born, Lord Krishna told Bhudevi that the "asura would be indulging in all unrighteous deeds and he may be killed by me in your presence". Devendra, the chief of celestial beings, pleaded to Krishna to save celestial beings, sages and other pious people from the asura's atrocities. Satyabhama – the divine consort and incarnation of Bhudevi – accompanied Krishna to Pratyushapuram, the place of Narakasura. It is believed that on the day of Deepavali, Narakasura was killed by Krishna, symbolising the victory of the righteous. At the asura's request, this day is celebrated as the festival of lighting lamps to signifying removal of darkness and achieving prosperity and peace.

Dharma Sastra grantha like Dharmasindhu, Nyayasindhu say Deepavali should be celebrated for three days. The first day called Yamatrayaodasi is to remember Yama, the king of righteousness. This will prevent us from indulging in evil thoughts and acts. On the day of Deepavali, called Narakachaturdasi, we have to take oil bath as goddesses Lakshmi dwells in oil and Ganga Devi resides in water. Next day, Lakshmi pooja is to be performed for wealth and prosperity, said Valayapettai Sri Ramachar in a discourse.

ASKUS

N. Sree Kanth

Q I have invested ₹10 lakh in Post Office KVP scheme. Please explain the tax process here as it doesn't come under 80C deduction. Do I have to pay tax every financial year for the interest incurred, or all at once at the time of maturity according to the tax slab rates of that year?
RAVINDAR

A Interest accrued on KVP deposits are taxable under the head "Income from Other Sources". Interest received can be accounted for either at the time of maturity or annually. TDS will be deducted by the post office if the interest paid or accrued exceeds the limits as prescribed under the Income Tax Act which is ₹40,000 for non-senior citizens and ₹50,000 in case of senior citizens. Declaring the income annually is advisable as income of each year is declared in the respective year. Moreover, TDS adjustment of the respective year can be done in the year of deduction.

Q I retired on superannuation from a PSU bank and I opted for 240 days' leave encashment and received ₹12.46 lakh. The bank allowed me tax exemption of ₹3 lakh only and applied TDS on the remaining amount. Under section 10 subsection (10-aa), leave encashment at the time of superannuation is fully exempted from income tax. Please clarify whether this is applicable to employees working in PSU banks.
RAVINDRA KULKARNI

A Employees of public sector undertakings including PSU banks cannot be treated on a par with government employees for the purposes of Section 10(10AA) of the Income Tax Act, 1961. In your case, the leave salary that was paid to you at the time of your retirement is not completely exempt. The exemption that is available to you at the time of receipt of leave salary at your retirement will be the least of ₹3,00,000, leave salary actually received, 10 months' salary (basic plus DA), cash equivalent of leave to the credit of the employee at the time of retirement. The cash equivalent of leave to the credit of the employee at the time of retirement is calculated in the following manner ((AxB)-C)xD where,
A – Number of completed years of service
B – Number of leave days credited each year (maximum 30 leave days per year)
C – Number of days of leave taken or encashed during employment period
D – Average salary of the past 10 months

Q I am 84 years old. In July, 2019, my wife made an 80-C FD with herself as first holder and me as joint holder, as usual. She died in August, 2021. Can this FD be withdrawn as the depositor is dead and the financial year for which the tax savings deposit was made is over?
V. NARAYANAN

A Fixed Deposits (Term Deposit) for the purposes of Section 80C deduction has a minimum lock-in period of 5 years. However, in the event of death of the term deposit holder, the same can be withdrawn from the bank by the legal heirs. This does not affect the taxability of the year in which the investment was made as the investment has been made as per the Bank Term Deposit Scheme, 2006 and the said scheme also allows withdrawal by legal heir on or before the maturity of the deposit.

(The writer is partner, GSS Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Money spinner: In India, toll collections or transmission fees make up the InvIT's distributable cash flows. K. MURALI KUMAR

How InvITs work and generate their returns

Investors in an InvIT become part owners of its operating assets such as toll roads or power transmission lines, while in a stock IPO, they get to part-own the underlying business

Aarati Krishnan

The buzz around the recent bond offer from the National Highway Infrastructure Trust (NHIT) has led to a lot of curiosity about Infrastructure Investment Trusts or InvITs.

The Government of India too is increasingly using the InvIT route to monetise assets held by government entities, and bring in broad-based public shareholding. Should retail investors look at InvITs as a replacement for shares, fixed income instruments or something else? Well, InvITs are an in-between vehicle that have features of stocks, bonds and mutual funds. Before investing in them, it's useful to know how they work and generate returns.

How they work

InvITs list on the bourses to raise money to acquire a portfolio of infrastructure assets that are already running and generating regular cash flows.

InvITs can own any assets capable of generating steady cash flows over time. Companies with listed shares are free to conserve their profits and reinvest it in the business, while holding back dividends. But under SEBI regulations InvITs are required to compulsorily distribute 90% of the income they earn every year to their unit holders.

This makes InvITs more suitable for income-seeking investors rather than growth-seeking ones. SEBI also caps the borrowing that an InvIT can take on to 70% of its assets. While investors in a stock IPO become part owners of the underlying business, investors in an InvIT become part owners of the operating assets it owns. InvITs may own their infrastructure assets directly or through arms called special purpose vehicles (SPVs).

InvITs globally tend to own many types of assets – warehouses, oil pipelines, power plants and roads.

But in India, the listed InvITs mainly own toll roads or power transmission lines. These assets generate toll collections or transmission fees which make up the InvIT's distributable cash flows. Both shares and InvITs, once listed on the exchange, trade in the secondary market on a daily basis. Investors are free to buy or sell units of the InvIT at the traded price.

While shares are priced in the markets based on their profit potential, InvITs tend to be priced based on the distributions they make.

A key metric for InvIT investors to track is the distribution per unit (how much cash it is able to pay out on a per unit basis) and the yield, which is the annual distribution as a percentage of the InvIT's market price. An InvIT is also required to get its portfolio periodically valued by independent valuers who declare a net asset value (NAV) per unit. The price of the InvIT can trade at a premium or discount to this NAV, but does not usually stray far from it.

Regulation, governance

Unlike companies, the kind of assets an InvIT can own are subject to regulation. SEBI requires listed InvITs to have at least 80% of their asset value in completed infrastructure assets that are already churning out cash. Only the remaining can be invested in under-construction projects, shares and bonds of infrastructure companies, government securities and so on. Apart from this, InvITs are also required to distribute a minimum 90% of the cash they earn and cap their debt at 70%.

SEBI rules also specify an InvIT governance structure that is akin to mutual funds. InvITs are initially floated by a sponsor (a promoter) who is usually an owner of infrastructure assets. For subsequent assets it may still look to the sponsor, or shop elsewhere. Just as AMCs manage mutual funds, InvITs usually have an investment manager.

The investment manager, for a fee, operates and maintains the InvIT's assets, acquires and sells assets as the need arises and takes decisions on distributions.

Returns and taxation

InvITs may earn their returns from the assets they own in three forms. One, if the InvIT holds assets on its own balance sheet, it may earn income from toll collections, power transmission fees or other avenues, which, after meeting expenses, is distributed to shareholders. Two, if the InvIT holds assets through an SPV, it may earn dividends from the SPV's profits. Three, the InvIT may also lend to the SPV to acquire and maintain assets in which case it will earn income from it by way of interest receipts and loan repayments. The returns that an InvIT distributes to its unitholders can take all three forms.

The taxation of the distribution you receive depends on its source. Interest and dividend income will be taxed like income from bonds and shares respectively and direct payouts by the InvIT will be taxed as income in your hands. The capital gains you make on trading in InvIT units on the exchanges are treated as short term and taxed at 15% if held for less than 36 months, and taxed at 10% if held beyond this period.

Spoilt for choice!

COVERNOTE

A platform like Bima Sugam will quickly demonstrate the mind-boggling choice in insurance offerings. Too many options befuddle the customer

K. Nitya Kalyani

The insurance regulator is planning a platform for personal insurances called Bima Sugam with the objective of increasing insurance coverage in the country. A neutral platform, it bears the promise of bringing to one marketplace insurers, various intermediaries, product information, purchase, payments, renewals, dematerialisation and, hopefully, claims.

Here is a wish list of things it can offer. This is partly a dream list and partly information and facility gaps I have gleaned from the questions asked by readers of this column.

Too many options confuse. A platform like Bima Sugam will quickly demonstrate the mind-boggling choice in insurance offerings. Full marks to the industry for introducing a wide variety with insight and intuition. But too much choice befuddles the customer.

Mutual funds sorted out this problem recently and sanity was approached with SEBI laying down limited categories and variants in the nature of funds, returns options and risk profile, not to speak of standardising nomenclature. In short, transparency and comparability.

The insurance regulator too has approached this issue, but from a different angle, by fashioning standardised policies in leading categories which each insurer is mandated to offer.

Coverage, exclusions, co-pay, excess, floater sum-insured, top-up, liability, comprehensive... The prospective insurance customer doesn't even want to enter this dense cloud of words. Adding to the confusion is the high visibility advertising and the flood of marketing phone calls, SMSes and, lately, WhatsApp messages as well.

Buying mobile phones is easier and more fun! The price difference between 256 / 128 GB memory makes for a simple decision if one needs the extra storage and at that price.

Offer auto-renewal

Missing renewals is another problem. Reminders come too early / too late / get lost in the post or in the spam folder. Or, the insured just clean forgot. Renewals are beneficial to both the insured and the insurer and rejection of renewal is likely to be relatively rare anyway. A simple auto-renewal facility can help. It can even be on-account and subject to underwriting or rating decisions (like revision in premium because of a claim or age slab), and can ensure that cover does not stop due to oversight.

Wishes are endless. More in the next instalment of Cover Note!

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Life Insurance Term Plan Premium

Male: 30 Years, Sum Insured - ₹1 crore, Cover up to - 70 Years

Insurance Company	Plan name	Maximum cover upto (Years)	Annual Premium ₹
Aditya Birla Capital	Digishield Plan	85	12,687
Bajaj Allianz	Etouch	99^	10,793
Bharti AXA	Flexi Term Pro	99	10,385
Canara HSBC Life Ins.	iSelect Star Term Plan	99	12,791
HDFC Life	C2PL Life Protect	100**	14,521
ICICI Prudential	iProtect Smart	99	15164
India First Life	e-Term Plan	70	8,856
Kotak Life Insurance	Kotak e-Term Plan	75	12,036
Max Life Insurance	Smart Secure Plus	85	11899*
PNB Met Life	Mera Term Plan Plus	80	11,328
SBI Life	eShield Next	100***	14,654
TATA AIA Life	Sampoorn Raksha	100	12,626
Aegon Life	iTerm Comfort	70	19,295
LIC of India	Tech Term^^^	80	14,122

^^^Maximum policy term is 40 years | Claim settlement ratio as per data provided by insurer
^ Bajaj whole life is available only on limited pay option
*Max life offers additional 5% discount for 1st year for salaried customers
**HDFC whole is available only in limited payterm(Life Protect) & Limited+Single payterm(Income Plus)
***SBI Life offers discounted premium on their website
***SBI eShield Next plan whole life is available only in limited pay with above age 45yrs
Source: LIC of India, www. policybazaar.com

Health Insurance Premium

For a 30-year-old male, non-smoker, living in a metro city sum insured of ₹10 lakh

Insurer Name	Key Features of Insurers	Plan Names under each Insurer	Premiun Annually
Niva Bupa Health Insurance	Day Care Treatments	Health ReAssure	9,590
	Hospitalization at Home	Health Pulse Enhanced	10,161
	Family Floater option	Health Companion	9,862
	E-consultation	Health Premia	16,436
	Alternate Medicine	Go Active	11,747
Star Health Insurance	Family Floater option	Medi Classic	11,095
	Restoration of cover	Star Comprehen-sive	11,476
	Wellness Benefits	Young Star Gold Plan	8,389
	Existing Illness cover	Diabetes Safe Plan-B	19,122
	Free health checkup	Young Star Silver Plan	7,133
Bajaj Allianz General Insurance	Hospital Room Eligibility	Individual Health Guard	12,212
	Wellness Benefits		
	Family Floater Option		
	No claim bonus	Bajaj Health Guard - Platinum	13,569
DIGIT General Insurance	Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage	Early Cover Option	8064
	Restoration of cover	Super Care Option	7616
	Alternate medicine (AYUSH)	Ultimate Option	8393
TATA AIG	Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage	Medicare	9,820
	Day Care Treatments		
	Hospitalization at Home		
	Free health checkup	Medicare Premier	12,176

Insurer Name	Key Features of Insurers	Plan Names under each Insurer	Premiun Annually
Royal Sundaram General Insurance	Day Care Treatments	Lifeline supreme	8,578
	Hospitalization at Home		
	Hospital Room Eligibility		
	Alternate Medicine		
New India Insurance	Restoration of cover	Mediclaim Policy	9,416
	Day Care Treatments		
Oriental Insurance	Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage	Individual Mediclaim Policy	12,684
	Day Care Treatments		
	Hospitalization at Home		
SBI General Insurance	Free health checkup	Arogya Supreme	13,180
Chola MS General Insurance	Day Care Treatments	Flexi Health	7,807
	Hospital Room Eligibility		
	Hospitalization at Home		
	Alternate Medicine		
Edelweiss General Insurance	Day Care Treatments	Edelweiss Health Insurance- Gold (Health 241 Add-on)	10,916
	Hospitalization at Home	Edelweiss Health Insurance Gold	8,733
	Hospital Room Eligibility		
	Alternate Medicine		

Data as on October 19, 2022
Source: www.policybazaar.com | Premium is calculated on the basis of age of insured member, location, Plan type and Sum insured | Health insurance covers medical expenses that arise due to an illness and benefits will be payable subject to the terms and conditions and exclusions of the Policy

MOSCOW

Two pilots dead after Russian jet crashes into building in Siberia

Two pilots were killed after a Russian jet conducting a test flight crashed on Sunday into a two-storey building in the city of Irkutsk in southern Siberia. The incident comes days after a military jet crashed into a block of flats in the Russian town of Yeysk, killing more than a dozen people, including children. AP

TEL AVIV

Palestinian group accuses Israel of killing fighter in West Bank

A Palestinian militant group accused Israel on Sunday of killing one of its top fighters in a targeted attack in a West Bank city. The Den of Lions, a group of young Palestinians formed out of disillusionment with the Palestinian leadership, said the victim was killed when an explosive planted on a motorcycle exploded as he walked by. AP

KHARTOUM

Thousands protest deadly tribal clashes in Sudan's southern area

Thousands of protesters gathered on Sunday in front of Army headquarters in the Sudanese city of Damazin, protesting against the recent ethnic clashes in the south. At least 200 were killed in two days last week after clashes erupted over land disputes between members of the Hausa people and rival groups. AP

RIYADH

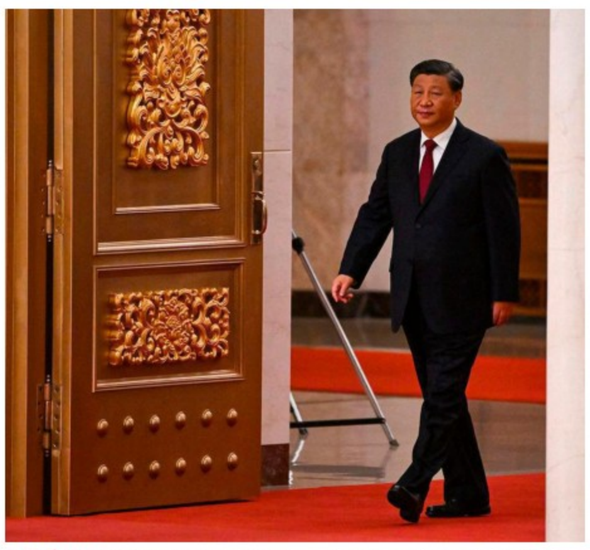
Saudi Arabia intends to attract $10 bn in supply chain investment

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince launched an initiative to attract investments in supply chains to and from the kingdom, with an aim of raising an initial 40 billion riyals ($10.64 billion). The initiative by Prince Mohammed bin Salman will include allocating about 10 billion riyals in incentives for supply chain investors. REUTERS

Xi Jinping promotes three India border command Generals to top PLA posts

Foreign Minister Wang Yi, 69, promoted to Politburo despite being above retirement age; actions suggest China's military and foreign policy are likely to have Xi's firm stamp in the next term

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING



Tall figure: Xi Jinping arriving to introduce members of the CPC's new Politburo Standing Committee in Beijing on Saturday. AFP

Three People's Liberation Army (PLA) Generals who have occupied key roles leading the army in the Western Theatre Command, which borders India, have received significant promotions in the just concluded Communist Party Congress.

General He Weidong, 65, was on October 23, 2022 named the new Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), which leader Xi Jinping will head for a precedent-defying third five-year term. He replaces the retiring Xu Qiliang.

Unprecedented move

General Zhang Youxia, 72, a close associate of Mr. Xi, will continue for another term as the other – and first ranking – Vice Chairman. Like Mr. Xi's continuation, both appointments have also broken precedent. General He becomes a Vice Chairman without ever serving on the CMC, essentially receiving a double promotion. General Zhang continues despite being above the retirement age.

As the highest ranking Vice Chairman, General Zhang will be Mr. Xi's right-hand man in the PLA, which has seen sweeping reforms since 2016, when Mr. Xi disbanded the Soviet-style general staff departments – which had grown into separate fiefdoms – and unified them under the direct command of the CMC.

He also stamped his authority by purging the then two highest ranking Generals – and former CMC vice chairmen - Xu Caihou and Guo Boxiong.

Active roles

General He is one of three PLA Generals promoted who were actively involved in recently leading the Army in the Western Theatre Command (WTC) which borders India, during a period of heightened tensions spanning the 2017 Doklam crisis and the Line of Actual Control (LAC) crisis that began in April 2020.

General He served as the Army (ground forces) commander of the WTC from 2016 until 2019. The WTC was at the time headed by the long-serving General Zhao Zongqi, who was on retirement moved to the National People's Congress, the Parliamentary body.

General He was in 2019 promoted to head the Eastern Theatre Command, which gives him familiarity also with China's eastern frontiers, and specifically in dealing with the Taiwan issue.

Leading the LAC charge

The second promoted WTC General is Xu Qiling, 60, who has been appointed as one of 205 members of the Party's new Central Committee. He succeeded General He as WTC Army Commander in 2020. He was in charge during the LAC crisis, and was promoted from Lieutenant General to General to head the WTC in July 2021, to replace General Zhao's successor, General Zhang Xudong, who reportedly passed away due to illness.

General Xu had a short stint before being moved to head the joint staff department of the CMC, where he is likely to continue.

His successor and current head of the WTC, General Wang Haijiang, 59, has also joined him on the Central Committee of the Party.

Xi's firm grip

The appointments suggest China's military, and foreign policy, are likely to have Mr. Xi's firm stamp in the next term.

Also breaking precedent, Foreign Minister Wang Yi, 69, was promoted to the Politburo despite being above the retirement age, and is likely to replace retiring Yang Jiechi as Director of the Party's Central Commission for Foreign Affairs as the next top diplomat.

He will continue as Foreign Minister until the NPC convenes in March. Another official trusted by Mr. Xi, the current envoy in the U.S. and Mr. Xi's former protocol chief Qin Gang, was also appointed to the Central Committee, and may be in line to succeed Mr. Wang.

Sunak declares fresh bid for British PM with the promise of 'integrity'

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

British Conservative Rishi Sunak on Sunday announced he is standing to be Prime Minister, just weeks after failing in a first attempt – and setting up a potentially bruising battle with his former boss Boris Johnson.

Ex-Finance Minister Sunak vowed "integrity, professionalism and accountability" and to lead Britain out of "profound economic crisis", which experts say has been worsened by the aborted policies of outgoing leader Liz Truss.

Fixing things

"I want to fix our economy, unite our party and deliver for our country," he said in a short statement posted on Twitter confirming his widely expected candidacy.

In the spotlight: Conservative MP Rishi Sunak leaving his campaign headquarters in London on Sunday. REUTERS

The no-frills announcement contrasted with his last failed bid to become the Tory leader, when he faced criticism for a slickly produced video launched just days after he had helped depose ex-Prime Minister Johnson by resigning as Chancellor in July.

Mr. Sunak, 42, is the second Conservative MP to declare a run at the top job, after Cabinet member Penny Mordaunt launched her campaign on Friday.

Mr. Johnson is anticipated to enter the likely week-long contest, after he cut short a Caribbean holiday to return to Britain Saturday and attempt an audacious political comeback less than two months after leaving office.

Johnson's lobbying

The 58-year-old is said to be intensely lobbying Conservative colleagues ahead of a Monday afternoon deadline to secure the 100 nominations required to face a vote of the Tories' 357 MPs.

Mr. Sunak has raced ahead in that count, crossing the minimum threshold on Friday and currently boasting the public backing of 146 Tory lawmakers, according to a *BBC* tally. That compares to Mr. Johnson's 57 and 23 for Ms. Mordaunt, though the ex-leader's allies insist he has secured the 100 nominations.

Russia holds talks with France, U.K. and Turkey

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu held phone calls on Sunday with his British, French and Turkish counterparts, during which they discussed the war in Ukraine, the Russian Defence Ministry said.

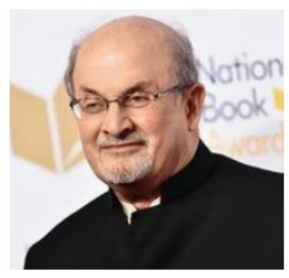
Mr. Shoigu conveyed "concerns about possible provocations by Ukraine with the use of a dirty bomb". On Friday, Mr. Shoigu held a rare phone call with U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

'Rushdie lost sight in eye, use of hand'

Agence France-Presse
MADRID

Author Salman Rushdie lost vision in one eye and was left "incapacitated" in a hand after he was stabbed in the United States in August, his agent said in an interview published this weekend.

"He's lost the sight of one eye... He had three serious wounds in his neck. One hand is incapacitated because the nerves in his arm were cut. And he has about 15 more wounds in his chest and torso," Andrew Wylie told Spanish daily *El Pais*.



Salman Rushdie

The injuries "were profound... it was a brutal attack", Mr. Wylie added.

He would not give any information about the writer's whereabouts, or whether he was still in hospital, but said: "He's going to live."

Giorgia Meloni takes office as first woman PM of Italy

Agence France-Presse
ROME

Far-right leader Giorgia Meloni took office on Sunday as Italy's first woman Prime Minister, calling on the fractious members of her coalition to unite as they face looming crises on several fronts.

Four weeks after her post-fascist Brothers of Italy party won the election, Ms. Meloni formally assumed office in a handover ceremony with outgoing premier Mario Draghi, before gathering her Cabinet.

Sport

Armstrong rescues a draw for Southampton against Arsenal; Newcastle beats Tottenham

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
SOUTHAMPTON

Hero: Armstrong celebrates after scoring Southampton's equaliser against Arsenal. GETTY IMAGES

Arsenal dropped points for only the second time this season as Stuart Armstrong's equaliser forced the Premier League leader to settle for a 1-1 draw against Southampton on Sunday.

Mikel Arteta's side went in front through Granit Xhaka's first-half strike at St Mary's. But Armstrong levelled after the interval as Arsenal paid the price for failing to convert several chances to increase its advantage. The end of Arsenal's eight-game winning run in all competitions leaves it two points clear of second-placed Manchester City with both having played 11 games.

Later, Newcastle produced its biggest result of an already impressive season with a deserved 2-1 victory at Tottenham Hotspur to move into the top four.

In Serie A, Henrikh Mkhitaryan netted in stoppage time to salvage a 4-3 win for Inter Milan.

The results: Premier League: Aston Villa 4 (Bailey 2, Ings 7, 14-pen, Watkins 59) bt Brentford 0; Leeds United 2 (Rodrigo 20, Summerville 90+1) lost to Fulham 3 (Mitrovic 26, De Cordova-Reid 74, Willian 84); Southampton 1 (Armstrong 65) drew with Arsenal 1 (Xhaka 11); Wolves 0 lost to Leicester City 4 (Tielemans 8, Barnes 19, Maddison 65, Vardy 79); Tottenham 1 (Kane 54) lost to Newcastle 2 (Wilson 31, Almiron 40).

Serie A: Atalanta 0 lost to Lazio 2 (Zaccagni 10, Felipe Anderson 52).

LaLiga: Real Betis 1 (Fekir 84) lost to Atletico Madrid 2 (Griezmann 54, 71).

Bundesliga: Hertha Berlin 2 (Tousart 49, Kanga 88) bt Schalke 1 (Mollet 85); Bochum 2 (Hofmann 43, Holtmann 71) bt Union Berlin 1 (Pantovic 90+3).

On Saturday: LaLiga: Real Madrid 3 (Modric 5, Vazquez 79, Valverde 81) bt Sevilla 1 (Lamela 54).

Serie A: Fiorentina 3 (Cabral 33-pen, Ikone 60, Jovic 90) lost to Inter 4 (Barella 2, Martinez 15, 73, Mkhitaryan 90+4).

Odisha nicks a win from Blasters with a dramatic comeback

ISL-9

Sports Bureau

Odisha FC secured all three points against Kerala Blasters with a dramatic 2-1 comeback win in the Hero Indian Super League (ISL) at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneshwar on Sunday. Harmanjot Khabra scored in the 35th minute for the visitors before Jerry Mawihmingthanga equalised in the 54th minute and substitute Pedro Martin won it for the Juggernauts in the 86th minute.

Odisha FC made one change to the side that lost to Mumbai City FC. Thoiba Singh replaced Raynier Fernandes in the midfield as it retained its 4-3-3 formation with Diego Mauricio up top. Blasters fielded the same eleven that lost against ATK Mohun Bagan as Ivan Kaliuzhnyi retained his place up front alongside Dimitrios Diamantakos.

Odisha's Mawihmingthanga celebrates. FOCUS SPORTS/ ISL

The ball was in the Kerala Blasters' net after seven minutes, but the goal was disallowed. Mauricio cut in from the left flank before getting his shot away from an extremely acute angle. The effort was parried by Prabhsukhan Gill before it reached Isaac Chhakchhuak.

The midfielder's goal-bound shot was blocked by Gill before Jerry tried to tap it in from close range. The goal was chalked off because Gill had a glove on the ball when Jerry toe-poked it into the net.

The Juggernauts are now third in the Hero ISL with six points, just a point off the top. Meanwhile, the Blasters are now ninth with just three points.

Bulls rally to tie with Pirates

Sports Bureau

Patna Pirates dominated for most part of the match, but Bengaluru Bulls never lost hope during their Pro Kabaddi League contest in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Going into the last minute, Pirates held a comfortable lead but the Bulls inflicted an All Out and tackled Rohit Gulia to tie the game 31-31.

U.P. Yoddhas beat the Tamil Thalaivas 41-24 in a match defined by the brilliance of the Yoddhas' defensive unit.

Raider Pardeep Narwal chipped in with six points, becoming the first player to cross 1400 raid points in the history of the Pro Kabaddi League.

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State Govt Opens Doors To Regularise Contractual Personnel

1.10 lakh contractual personnel are going to be regularised

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Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister, Rajasthan

- **In Budget 2021-22, announced to make department-wise cadre for contractual personnel**
- **In Budget 2022-23, honorarium was hiked by 20%**
- **For the first time, Rajasthan Contractual Hiring to Civil Post Rules, 2022 implemented**
  - ▶ Transparency in recruitment of contractual personnel
  - ▶ Complete compliance with reservation rules
  - ▶ After completion of 5 years, confirmation of contractual employee when posts are regularised
  - ▶ Honorarium of contractual employees will be determined considering the post as equivalent to a permanent post
  - ▶ Provision of Special Pay Protection

Old Pension Scheme benefit on regularisation

Department of Education – 41423 (Education personnel, para teachers, gram panchayat assistants, English medium teachers)
Rural Development and Panchayati Raj – 18326 (Rajeevika, various posts in MGNREGS)
Department of Minority Affairs – 5697 (Madarsa para teachers)
Medical & Health Department and Medical Education Department (Various posts including N.H.M. personnel)
Total 1,10,279 Contractual Personnel

Rajasthan Samwad

Department of Information and Public Relations, Rajasthan

THE MOMENT

A surreal atmosphere, no idea how that happened: Kohli

Virat Kohli found it hard to explain the incredible win against Pakistan in a humdinger at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday. "It's a surreal atmosphere. I have no words, no idea how that happened," he said. "I am really lost for words. Hardik believed we can do it if we stayed till the end."

COMFORT ZONE

Camaraderie is good and we enjoy each other's success: Arshdeep

"We are just enjoying our game. I didn't work too much on myself, just trying to keep things simple as much as possible. The atmosphere in the team is very good. We enjoy each other's success and if a player has a bad day, we always stand by him, so it helps a lot," said Arshdeep Singh, who took three wickets in the match.

PAYING TRIBUTE

Emotional Hardik recalls late father's sacrifices

Hardik Pandya, who produced an all-round show, said: "I was only thinking about my dad. I have not cried about my dad. I love my son, but I don't know if I'll be able to do for him what my dad did for me. He moved cities for a six-and-a-half-year old boy's dreams without knowing I'd get to where I am today. This is for him."

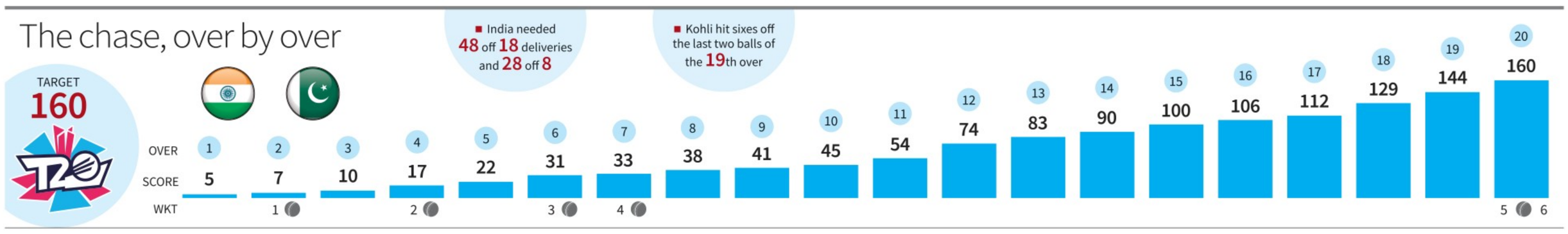
TURNING POINT

Kohli and Hardik took the game away from us, says Babar

Babar Azam, after the heart-breaking loss to India, said: "We were close, may be a bit ahead of India after taking those four wickets. But the way Hardik (Pandya) and Kohli batted, they took the game away from us. We could not manage those last four to five overs. But there is no point blaming the bowlers as these things happen."

Kohli's dazzling knock lights up India's Deepavali eve

His unbeaten 82 and 113-run fifth-wicket partnership with Hardik headlines a nervy pursuit that culminates in a terrific four-wicket victory over Pakistan after a dramatic final over



T20 WORLD CUP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
MELBOURNE

Deepavali fireworks were expected from India against Pakistan in the ICC Twenty20 World Cup Super 12 Group 2 match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) here on Sunday.

And, despite an early stutter, India dished out a splendid chase with Virat Kohli's incandescent knock lighting up the skies.

Kohli's unbeaten 82 and his 113-run fifth-wicket partnership with Hardik Pandya (40) marshalled a nervy pursuit that culminated in a terrific four-wicket victory over Pakistan at a venue high on storied history, electric atmosphere and packed with fans from either side of the Wagah border.

Edge-of-the-seat stuff

Chasing Pakistan's 159 for eight, India finished with 160 for six in 20 overs with the last over being high on drama and chewed up nails. Sixteen runs were required against left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz but the dismissals of Hardik and Dinesh Karthik besides a medley of no-balls, wides and a big strike ensured that R. Ashwin needed one from the last delivery, which he promptly pocketed and delirium reigned within the Indian camp.

New high: Hardik and Kohli's 113-run stand is a new record for any wicket against Pakistan in T20Is. GETTY IMAGES

Initially the Indian openers – skipper Rohit Sharma and K.L. Rahul – had to deal with Pakistan's speedsters.

Early setbacks

The openers survived Shaheen Shah Afridi's first over but in the next, Naseem Shah found an ally in Rahul's tentative defensive blade and the ball ricocheted onto the stumps.

Haris Rauf then scalped Rohit, drawing the edge with Iftikhar Ahmed pulling off a sharp catch.

And while Kohli watched, Suryakumar Yadav struck a few fours but failed to counter a Rauf delivery that homed into his body. And when Axar Patel got run out, India was hobbling at 31 for four.

However, Kohli had other plans and with Hardik for company, the two ran briskly and India moved to 45 for four in 10 overs.

In the 12th over, the dam broke as Hardik and Kohli tucked into Nawaz. Three sixes were clouted and immediately Babar Azam got his pacers back but Kohli flicked Afridi and Shah for fours and finally hope stirred within the Indian ranks.

The former India captain remained the last man standing with his arms aloft, a big grin lighting up his sweat-streaked visage.

Arshdeep strikes

Earlier, as the rains stayed away, Rohit won the toss and opted to field. The India skipper's decision found validation as Bhuvneshwar Kumar bowled a niggardly first over but the hero was Arshdeep Singh. The left-arm speedster trapped Babar with his first delivery, rapping the pads and in his next over, hurried Mohammad Rizwan into a miscued hook.

Pakistan was on 15 for two and Shaan Masood and Iftikhar had an onerous task. Southpaw Masood and Iftikhar freed their arms briefly against Hardik and Mohammed Shami. The runs came at a slow clip before the gears were shifted once Rohit failed to latch on to a tough chance from Iftikhar off Ashwin.

The off-spinner immediately felt the heat of Iftikhar's bat through a massive six. More followed in Axar's next over that went for three sixes. Iftikhar (51) got to his fifty but fell to Shami.

Flurry of exits

The third-wicket partnership of 76 had stabilised Pakistan before another flurry of exits happened as Hardik (three for 30) struck against batters trying their luck.

Pakistan slumped to 120 for seven before Masood's (52 n.o.) perseverance and Afridi's blows anchored Pakistan to a score that eventually proved inadequate.

Master of the game! Kohli was back at his best as he marshalled the chase brilliantly. AFP

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN

Mohammad Rizwan c Bhuvneshwar b Arshdeep 4 *(12b, 1x4)*, Babar Azam lbw b Arshdeep 0 *(1b)*, Shan Masood (not out) 52 *(42b, 5x4)*, Iftikhar Ahmed lbw b Shami 51 *(34b, 2x4, 4x6)*, Shadab Khan c Suryakumar b Hardik 5 *(6b, 1x4)*, Haider Ali c Suryakumar b Hardik 2 *(4b)*, Mohammad Nawaz c Karthik b Hardik 9 *(6b, 2x4)*, Asif Ali c Karthik b Arshdeep 2 *(3b)*, Shaheen Shah Afridi c & b Bhuvneshwar 16 *(8b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Haris Rauf (not out) 6 *(4b, 1x6)*; Extras (b-2, lb-4, w-6): 12; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 159.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-1 (Babar, 1.1 overs), 2-15 (Rizwan, 3.6), 3-91 (Iftikhar, 12.2), 4-96 (Shadab, 13.2), 5-98 (Haider, 13.6), 6-115 (Nawaz, 15.5), 7-120 (Asif, 16.4), 8-151 (Afridi, 19.2).

INDIA BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 4-0-22-1, Arshdeep 4-0-32-3, Shami 4-0-25-1, Hardik 4-0-30-3, Ashwin 3-0-23-0, Axar 1-0-21-0.

INDIA

K.L. Rahul b Naseem 4 *(8b)*, Rohit Sharma c Iftikhar b Rauf 4 *(7b)*, Virat Kohli (not out) 82 *(53b, 6x4, 4x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Rizwan b Rauf 15 *(10b, 2x4)*, Axar Patel run out 2 *(3b)*, Hardik Pandya c Babar b Nawaz 40 *(37b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Dinesh Karthik st. Rizwan b Nawaz 1 *(2b)*, R. Ashwin (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (b-3, lb-1, w-6, nb-1): 11; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs):160.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-7 (Rahul, 1.5), 2-10 (Rohit, 3.2), 3-26 (Suryakumar, 5.3), 4-31 (Axar, 6.1), 5-144 (Hardik, 19.1), 6-158 (Karthik, 19.5).

PAKISTAN BOWLING

Afridi 4-0-34-0, Naseem 4-0-23-1, Rauf 4-0-36-2, Shadab 4-0-21-0, Nawaz 4-0-42-2.

Toss: India. **MoM:** Kohli.

India won by four wickets off the final delivery.

India's next match: Oct. 27: vs Netherlands, Sydney, 12.30 p.m.

Kohli is one of the best chasers in the world, says skipper Rohit

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
MELBOURNE

Just as a throbbing Melbourne Cricket Ground was coming to terms with India's sensational win over Pakistan and Virat Kohli's astonishing knock, India captain Rohit Sharma walked out, broke into a run and hoisted his predecessor on his shoulders.

There was joy, respect, camaraderie and relief in that moment as a magical Sunday ebbed into the mists of time and an ICC T20 World Cup game became part of the record books. Later as Rohit squared up to the media, the first query was about his impressions of Kohli's knock and the surround-sound around his teammate's form.

The skipper was quick on the riposte: "Speaking about Virat, I honestly don't think he was struggling with form. He was batting as good as he was, but with him, the expectations are always so high that even if he gets a good 30 or 40, people tend to talk about it.

"From the team management perspective, he was in good space right from the Asia Cup. He was fresh, got a brilliant hundred there, and then leading up to the World Cup, we know the quality that he has, and he's done so well in these type of conditions in all three forms.

"Obviously, he used his experience today more than anything else, staying calm under pressure, and we know how good he is when the score is in front of him. He is one of the best chasers in the world."

When pressed about whether this is the best he has seen from Kohli, Rohit went one step ahead and said: "It has to be one of India's best knocks, not just his best knock, because until the 13th over we were behind the game, and the required rate was just climbing up. But to come out and chase that score was an extremely brilliant effort from Virat, and then obviously Hardik (Pandya) played a role there, as well."

And what was the mood in the dressing room leading up to that nail-biting last over? "We were thinking that if we can keep about 15 to 18 runs in the last over, the bowler is going to be under pressure. He (Mohammad Nawaz) bowled that last over against us in Asia Cup and Hardik played some shots against him. Obviously it's not easy when you have to bowl the last over being a spinner with only 16 runs to defend."

Hail the hero! Rohit shows his appreciation for Kohli's effort. AFP

Mendis powers Lanka to big win over Ireland

Agence France-Presse
HOBART

Disciplined bowling and an unbeaten half-century by Kusal Mendis powered Sri Lanka to a nine-wicket hammering of Ireland in its opening Super 12 match here on Sunday.

Asian champion Sri Lanka restricted Ireland, which qualified for the second round by knocking out two-time champion West Indies, to 128 for eight.

Spinners Maheesh Theekshana and Wanindu Hasaranga took two wickets each after Ireland chose to bat.

Mendis then powered his side past the 129-run target with a second successive half-century, off 43 balls, hitting a six to win with five overs to spare.

Mendis, a wicketkeeper-batsman, smashed five fours and three sixes in an unbeaten stand with Charith Asalanka, who made 31, to hand Sri Lanka two points with a good net run-rate.

The scores:

Ireland 128/8 in 20 overs (Paul Stirling 34, Harry Tector 45, Maheesh Theekshana 2/19, Wanindu Hasaranga 2/25) lost to Sri Lanka 133/1 in 15 overs (Kusal Mendis 68 n.o., Dhananjaya de Silva 31, Charith Asalanka 31 n.o.).

MoM: Mendis.

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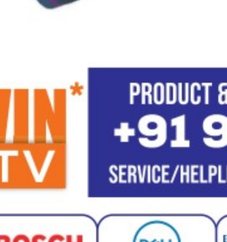

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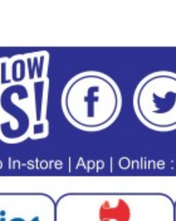

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INBRIEF

Vidarbha claims the Vinoo Mankad Trophy

Vidarbha defeated Punjab by 32 runs to win the title in the Vinoo Mankad Trophy cricket tournament at the Sports Hub, Thiruvananthapuram, on Sunday. Chasing 239 for a win, Punjab was dismissed for 206 after Aryan Yadav's belligerent innings of 87 kept it in the hunt. Earlier, Danish Malewar (59) and Neel Athaley (52) scored half centuries ad Vidarbha put up a challenging target for Punjab.

The scores: Vidarbha 238/8 in 50 overs (Danish Melawar 59, Neel Athaley 52, Tushar Suryavanshi 40, Uday Sharan 3/54) bt Punjab 206 in 47.4 overs (Aryan Yadav 87, Pratham Maheshwari 3/24).

Raunav wins 'overall prize' in the 21st KGA Epson Golf

Raunav Sharma won the 'overall prize' on offer, in the 21st KGA Epson Golf Tournament that was played over two sessions at the KGA course in Bengaluru on Saturday. The 20-year old Raunav played three over par to tote up 38 Stableford points in the tournament that saw over 220 golfers taking part.

Bagnaia wins Malaysian MotoGP, on verge of title

Francesco Bagnaia won a dramatic Malaysian MotoGP at Sepang on Sunday in 40:14:332s, 0.270s ahead of fellow Ducati rider Enea Bastianini. Fabio Quartararo completed the podium 2.7s adrift. Bagnaia would have won his maiden MotoGP World title had Quartararo finished off the podium. But the Ducati rider extended his lead to 23 points ahead of the season's final race in Valencia.

Red Bull F-1 team owner Mateschitz passes away

Austrian billionaire Dietrich Mateschitz, the co-founder of energy drink company Red Bull and founder and owner of the Red Bull Formula One racing team, passed away aged 78. Officials with the Red Bull racing team at the United States Grand Prix here announced Mateschitz's passing away on Saturday. There was no immediate word anout where it happened or a cause. FIA president Mohammed Ben Sulayem said Mateschitz was "a towering figure in motor sport". "The thoughts of all the FIA family are with his loved ones at this time and he will be greatly missed." With the growing success of Red Bull, he significantly expanded his investments in sports, specifically motorsports and extreme sports, and Red Bull now operates football clubs, ice hockey teams and F1 racing teams.

LIVE TELECAST

Men's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m. & 1.30 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

La Liga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

On Tuesday:

Men's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 4.30 p.m.

Pro Kabaddi League: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m. onwards

Champions League: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.15 p.m.; Sony Ten 1, 2, Six (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Sherawat wins 57kg freestyle World title

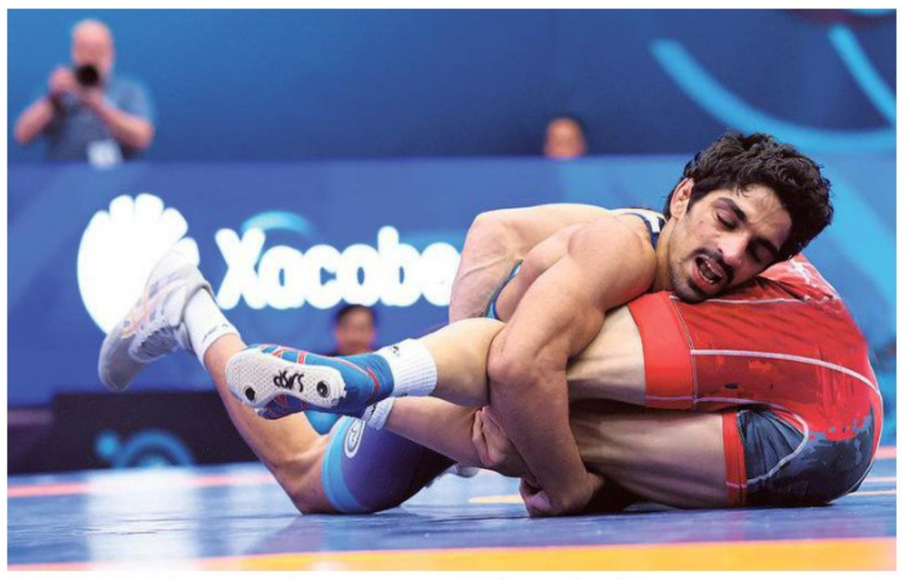
The Indian rallies from 0-2 down in the first period to get the better of Turkey's Duman and be the first Indian to be crowned champion at the under-23 wrestling championships

Sports Bureau

Aman Sherawat became the first Indian wrestler to be crowned champion at the World under-23 championships in Pontevedra, Spain.

A two-time World under-17 bronze medallist and current Asian under-23 champion, Sherawat rallied from 0-2 in the first period to beat Ahmet Duman of Turkey 12-4 in the final and secure the men's 57kg freestyle World title.

Sherawat, hailing from Bhirod village of Jhajjar district in Haryana, showcased his swift footwork to defend well and relied on a series of fast attacks to garner points with six sprightly takedowns and record a convincing victory.



In total control: Sherawat pins down Duman on way to claiming the title. UNITED WORLD WRESTLING

Road to final

Earlier, Sherawat defeated Sri Lanka's Hansana Ganegodage 11-0, Japan's Toshiya Abe 13-2 and Kyrgyzstan's Bekzat Uulu 10-5 to make it to the title clash.

The 19-year-old from Delhi's Chhatrasal Stadium, who idolizes two-time Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar and is a keen competitor of his akhara mate Olympic silver medallist Ravi Dahiya, was determined to take the gold.

"I am the Asian under-23 champion, I will try to win World under-23 gold as well.

"My result will tell everyone what kind of hard work I have put in," Sherawat had told *The Hindu*, after claiming the National Games gold in Gandhinagar, just before leaving for Spain.

Sherawat was the only Indian men's wrestler to compete in the World event as others selected for the championships could not reach Spain due to visa issues.

Theon primed to deliver in feature

HYDERABAD: Trainer Pesi Shroff's ward Theon, which maintains his winning form, should not find it difficult to win the Golconda St. Leger from his two rivals, the main attraction of Monday's (Oct. 24) races.

1 SANGAREDDY PLATE (1,400m), 4-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 1.50 p.m.: 1. Quality Warrior (9) B.R. Kumar 60, 2. Explosive (4) P. Ajeeth Kumar 59.5, 3. Fly To the Stars (1) P.S. Chouhan 59.5, 4. Salisbury (2) Afroz Khan 58, 5. Silk (6) Koushik 58, 6. Pedro Planet (10) P. Sai Kumar 57.5, 7. Aiza (7) Aneel 55, 8. Siri (3) Md. Ismail 54.5, 9. Sorry Darling (11) Rafique Sk. 54.5, 10. Spectacular Cruise (8) Suraj Narredu 54.5 and 11. Fatuma (5) Gaurav Singh 53.
1. SPECTACULAR CRUISE, 2. SALISBURY, 3. EXPLOSIVE

2 PAKHAL LAKE CUP (2,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.25: 1. Yesterday (8) Surya Prakash 60, 2. City Cruise (3) R.S. Jodha 59, 3. Forever Bond (9) P. Ajeeth Kumar 56.5, 4. Sucker Punch (4) P. Sai Kumar 55, 5. Arrowtown (2) Akshay Kumar 53.5, 6. New Hustle (7) B. Nikhil 53.5, 7. Swiss Girl (6) Suraj Narredu 53.5, 8. Akash (1) B.R. Kumar 51 and 9. My Way Or Highway (5) D.S. Deora 51.
1. SWISS GIRL, 2. ARROWTOWN, 3. YESTERDAY

3 GOLCONDA ST. LEGER (Gr. II) (2,800m) (Terms), 4-y-o and 5 year olds & upwards, 3.00: 1. Silvarus (1) Antony Raj S 57, 2. Theon (3) P.S. Chouhan 57 and 3. Bold Bidding (2) Akshay Kumar 55.5.
1. THEON

4 SOLARIO PLATE (1,200m), Maiden, 3-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45, 3.35: 1. Wind Sprite (13) Afroz Khan 60, 2. Lights On (5) R.S. Jodha 56.5, 3. Bellaque (12) Kiran Naidu 56, 4. Master Touch (3) Uday Kiran 56, 5. Palladium (6) Surya Prakash 56, 6. Protocol (7) Md. Ismail 56, 7. First Apostle (11) Rafique Sk. 55, 8. Life's Living (10) A.A. Vikrant 55, 9. RX Hundred (4) B. Nikhil 55, 10. Track Blazer (8) Santosh Raj 54.5, 11. Fast Track (9) Khurshad Alam 54, 12. Aarya (2) Gaurav Singh 53.5, 13. Ikra (14) Aneel 53.5 and 14. Alina (1) P. Sai Kumar 53.
1. WIND SPRITE, 2. BELLAQUE, 3. PALLADIUM

5 MIRZA ZUNNUR AHMED MEMORIAL CUP (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.10: 1. Mark My Day (3) Gaurav Singh 60.5, 2. Ashwa Morocco (6) B.R. Kumar 60, 3. Miss Little Angel (5) Santosh Raj 57, 4. Arthur (2) P.S. Chouhan 56.5, 5. Mysterious Angel (1) P. Ajeeth Kumar 55.5, 6. Gregor Clegane (11) Aneel 55, 7. Beauty Blaze (9) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 8. Angelita (7) Afroz Khan 52, 9. Angel Tesoro (10) G Naresh 51.5, 10. Southern Act (4) Md. Ismail 51.5 and 11. Unmatched (8) Surya Prakash 50.
1. ASHWA MOROCCO, 2. ARTHUR, 3. MISS LITTLE ANGEL

6 FIGHTING FORCE PLATE (1,400m), rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 4.45: 1. Alpine Girl (14) P. Sai Kumar 60, 2. City Of Hustle (6) G. Naresh 60, 3. Malahat (5) D.S. Deora 60, 4. Sye Ra (10) B. Nikhil 60, 5. Ella Eldingar (9) B.R. Kumar 59.5, 6. Silver Lining (2) Afroz Khan 59, 7. Reining Queen (8) P. Ajeeth Kumar 58, 8. Silk Route (3) Kiran Naidu 58, 9. Hip Hop (12) Gaurav Singh 57.5, 10. Red River (13) R.S. Jodha 57.5, 11. Arba Wahed Arba (4) A.A. Vikrant 57, 12. First In Line (1) Surya Prakash 57, 13. Lifetime (11) Uday Kiran 55 and 14. AR Superior (7) Santosh Raj 53.
1. RED RIVER, 2. MALAHAT, 3. REINING QUEEN

Day's Best: **THEON**

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Mini Jackpot: 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 4, 5 & 6.

Tanala: 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6.

Ferrari's Sainz takes the pole

US GP

Reuters
AUSTIN

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz took pole position for the U.S. Grand Prix here on Saturday as Formula One mourned the death of Red Bull owner Dietrich Mateschitz ahead of a race likely to crown his team the champion.

Red Bull's double world champion Max Verstappen will join Spaniard Sainz on the front row for the race with the Dutch driver having a strong chance of taking a record-equalling 13th win of the season.

"Pole position was a long time coming, after a few qualis of getting close but not quite getting there," said Sainz, who last took the top slot in Belgium at the end of August and now has a career total of three poles.

Sainz. AFP

The starting grid:
Front row: 1. Sainz (Ferrari), 2. Verstappen (Red Bull); **second row:** 3. Hamilton (Mercedes), 4. Russell (Mercedes); **third row:** 5. Stroll (Aston Martin), 6. Norris (McLaren); **fourth row:** 7. Bottas (Alfa Romeo), 8. Albon (Williams); **fifth row:** 9. Perez (Red Bull), 10. Vettel (Aston Martin); **sixth row:** 11. Gasly (AlphaTauri), 12. Leclerc (Ferrari); **seventh row:** 13. Tsunoda (AlphaTauri), 14. Alonso (Alpine); **eighth row:** 15. Magnussen (Haas), 16. Ricciardo (McLaren); **ninth row:** 17. Ocon (Alpine), 18. Schumacher (Haas); **last row:** 19. Zhou (Alfa Romeo), 20. Latifi (Williams).

Olivia claims maiden LET crown with impressive three-stroke margin

GOLF

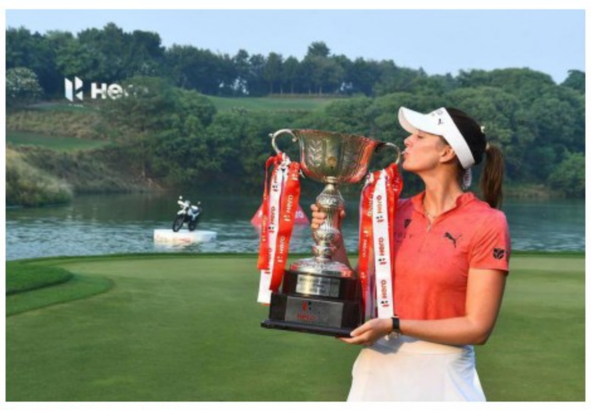
Rakesh Rao
GURUGRAM

After 27 top-10 finishes since turning professional in 2015, Olivia Cowan finally broke her title-jinx in style on the Ladies European Tour on Sunday.

The 26-year-old German sank the final putt for an impressive three-stroke margin over the duo of 2011 champion Caroline Hedwal and crowd favourite Amandeep Drall to claim the winner's share of $60,000 from the $400,000 Hero Women's Indian Open golf tournament here on Sunday.

Starting the final round a stroke behind Amandeep, Olivia fired five birdies against a lone bogey while maintaining a flawless back-nine.

Hedwel, who has had three runner-up finishes here, looked like making a charge to regain the title after a hat-trick of birdies on the front-nine wiped out her two successive bogeys. But on the back-nine, her approach shots let her down for a 71.



Smacking success: Olivia finally laid her hands on a Ladies European Tour trophy. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Best finish

Amandeep, the overnight leader by a stroke, produced her best finish on the LET after a par round. She held sole lead on the ninth and 10th holes at 11-under, but could not carry on with her good work. Hedwall caught up with her on the 11th before Olivia made it a three-way tie on the 12th hole.

The three leaders parred the 13th to stay at 11-under but things changed from the 14th hole.

Amandeep dropped a shot to slip to 10-under and on the 15th, Olivia birdied 15th and 17th to move to 13-under.

On the 18th, Hedwal's bogey cost her $6000 and she and Amandeep as joint runners-up collected $30,000 each.

Leading final scores:

275: Olivia Cowan (Ger) (71, 71, 65, 68); **278:** Caroline Hedwall (Swe) (68, 71, 68, 71), Amandeep Drall (67, 72, 67, 72); **281:** Aditi Ashok (70, 71, 69, 71); **282:** Ana Pelaez Trivino (Esp) (69, 76, 67, 70); **284:** Anais Meyssonnier (Fra) (66, 78, 68, 72), Gaurika Bishnoi (72, 71, 73, 69); **285:** Vani Kapoor (72, 71, 73, 69), Elina Nummenpaa (Fin) (70, 75, 69, 71).

Other Indians: 287: Avani Prashanth (A) (75, 76, 69, 67); **289:** Hitaashee Bakshi (73, 74, 71, 71), Nishtha Madan (72, 73, 71, 73); **292:** Neha Tripathi (74, 72, 74, 72); 293 - Anika Varma (A) (75, 73, 71, 74); **295:** Diksha Dagar (73, 75, 72, 75); **298:** Vidhatri Urs (A) (74, 72, 74, 78); **300:** Ridhima Dilawari (77, 72, 77, 74), Asmitha Sathish (74, 76, 77, 73); **301:** Tvesa Malik (69, 79, 77, 76), Seher Atwal (73, 79, 75, 74).

Silver for Indian sports pistol women's team

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

China proved too strong for India as it recorded a 16-0 victory for gold in the 25-metre sports pistol women's team event at the shooting World Championship in Cairo on Sunday.

Manu Bhaker, Abhidnya Patil and Rhythm Sangwan had done well to stay a mere one point away from China in the two stages of qualification. However, in the gold medal match, Chen Yan, Liu Rui and Xiao Jairuixuan did not concede a single point to India with their consistent high scores.

India also won a bronze through the rifle 3-position men's team, which beat USA 17-15. Niraj Kumar, Swapnil Kusale and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar beat the Americans who had narrowly missed the chance to fight for the gold against eventual champion Norway.

In the 25-metre rapid fire pistol event, Vijayveer Sidhu shot 583 and missed qualification for the ranking round by one point. Olympic silver medallist Vijay Kumar (581) and Anish Bhanwala (575) placed 13th and 28th respectively.

India was second in the medals table with 12 gold, nine silver and 13 bronze medals. China was on top with 25 gold, 16 silver and 14 bronze.

Fine show: Manu Bhaker, Rhythm Sangwan, and Abhidnya Patil, who won the team silver in sports pistol. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results: 25m sports pistol team women: 1. China (Chen Yan, Liu Rui, Xiao Jiaruixuan) 16 (444) 874; 2. India (Manu Bhaker, Abhidnya Patil, Rhythm Sangwan) 0 (443) 873; 3. Germany 17 (442) 873; 4. Hungary 5 (440) 868.
50m rifle 3-position team men: 1. Norway 16 (883) 1317; 2. France 12 (876) 1319; 3. India (Niraj Kumar, Swapnil Kusale, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar) 17 (873) 1324; 4. USA (Lucas Kozenesky, Ivan Roe, Timothy Sherry) 15 (876) 1313.

Bopanna & Middelkoop duo loses in final

INDIANS ABROAD

Sports Bureau

Rohan Bopanna in partnership with Matwe Middelkoop was beaten 3-6, 6-3, [10-5] in the doubles final by Tallon Griekspoor and Botic van de Zandschulp in the doubles final of the €725,540 ATP tennis tournament in Antwerp, Belgium, on Sunday.

The champion team won 250 ATP points and €35,250. The runner-up pair collected 150 points and €18,320.

The results:
€725,540 ATP, Antwerp, Doubles (final): Tallon Griekspoor & Botic van de Zandschulp (Ned) bt Matwe Middelkoop (Ned) & Rohan Bopanna 3-6, 6-3, [10-5].
$60,000 ITF women, Saguenay, Canada Singles (semifinals): Karman Kaur Thandi bt Francesca Di Lorenzo (USA) 6-4, 6-2.

India junior men go down to South Africa

Letting it slip: The Indians squandered a two-goal lead at half-time against South Africa. TWITTER@THEHOCKEYINDIA

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
JOHOR (MALAYSIA)

The Indian junior men's hockey team squandered a two-goal lead at half time to lose 4-5 to South Africa in its second match of the Sultan of Johor Cup here on Sunday.

Marvin Simons (seventh), Fawaaz Kahder (34th), Senzwesihle Ngubane (35th) and Cameron Le Forestier (49th and 57th) scored for South Africa. Sharda Nand Tiwari (ninth and 10th), captain Uttam Singh (17th) and Sudeep Chirmako (45th) found the target for India.

Sydneysider Subroto goes down memory lane

Exactly three decades ago, the then 20-year old, had travelled Down Under as a young fast bowler with the Indian cricket team and featured in a lone Test match at the SCG

Shayan Acharya
SYDNEY

About an hour away from the Sydney Cricket Ground, in the picturesque suburbs of Pennant Hills. there live the Banerjees. It's been a couple of years since they shifted to this part of the world, leaving behind a cushy and comfortable life in Mumbai. The relocation has brought Subroto Banerjee close to his early stomping ground.

Considered view: Subroto believes that Shami has enough experience to make an impact in Australia. SHAYAN ACHARYA

Two Bengali boys

Exactly three decades ago, Subroto, hardly 20 then, had travelled down under as a young fast bowler with the Indian cricket team. The tour of 1992, interestingly, saw two young Bengali boys making it to the squad.

While Subroto, hailing from Patna, was lucky enough to feature in a lone Test match at the Sydney Cricket Ground, the other one, from Kolkata – Sourav Ganguly – returned empty-handed, and waited for another four years before returning to the Indian team for the longest format.

During that tour of Australia, Subroto met Swati, and a few years later they got married and settled down in Sydney.

They lived here from 2000 to 2008-2009, before heading to Mumbai as Subroto landed a coaching role with the Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League and was later roped in by the Vidarbha Cricket Association.

But just before the pandemic in March 2020, his elder daughter moved to Australia to pursue higher studies and Swati also tagged along.

The initial plan was to return to Mumbai once the admission process was over.

"But that's when the pandemic came, and they could not return to India. So, after a while, we decided to permanently relocate to Sydney," Subroto tells *Sportstar*.

"I was busy with my coaching stints in India back then, so it was not easy to again relocate. But with lockdown and the pandemic, staying alone and far away from the family was difficult," he says. "So, finally, I decided to move to Sydney and be with them."

On weekdays, Subroto coaches at the Stars Cricket Academy in Hornsby, where Australian international Marnus Labuschange trains. "I work with the Hawkesbury side and do a lot of private coaching. Cricket is everything to me, so I cannot leave it. I enjoy it, and it's a passion," he says.

Having worked with most of the fast bowlers from the current team during his stint at the NCA, Subroto believes that Mohammed Shami has enough experience to make an impact in Australia despite missing out on competitive cricket ahead of the tournament.

"People say that Shami hasn't played a T20I for a year, so how will he manage? I don't buy that logic.

"Look at how he excelled in the warm-up game. He is a senior cricketer and understands what it takes to perform at the big stage," Subroto says.

"Having known the Australian wickets, I feel it's important for a fast bowler to bowl cleverly. You must use a lot of variation because if you feel that you'll come and hit the deck, that won't be the case," he says.

Subroto talks about how Indian cricket has changed over the years and invariably goes back to the tour of 1992. "Maharaj [Ganguly] and I were youngsters in that side, and we both knew that we must make the most of the opportunities. The batting line-up was strong, and so was the bowling unit with Paaji [Kapil Dev], Srinath and Manoj [Prabhakar] around. So as the fourth fast bowler, I knew that I could still get a few matches to play, but for Maharaj, there were too many seniors battling for spots. But we knew that Maharaj was a supremely talented batter," Subroto says.

Karthik Meiyappan — how a chess enthusiast entered cricket's record books

Shayan Acharya
SYDNEY

Three magical deliveries etched Karthik Meiyappan's name on the record books. Featuring for the UAE in the T20 World Cup in Australia, the 22-year-old leg-spinner took a hat-trick against Sri Lanka - the first by a cricketer from the associate nations against an ICC full member association.

As the family watched Karthik's feat on television at their home in Dubai, his mother Selvi Subbiah remembered the days in Chennai when she would travel to MRC Nagar in RA Puram to drop Karthik to the Chettinad Vidyashram. Karthik was in first standard and had developed a liking for chess.

"He would play chess at home and often talk about it. Looking at his interest, I realised that it would be good to send him to a chess centre," Selvi says.

The family moved to Dubai a few months later, robbing Karthik of the opportunity to further hone his chess. Selvi, however, ensured that Karthik was enrolled in a chess club, when she came back to Coimbatore, a year later. "I was pregnant and that's when Karthik and I returned to India. I admitted him to a chess club near our home and he really liked it," Selvi says.

"He enjoyed playing the game, but things changed after we shifted back to the UAE again after my daughter was born," Selvi says. "We lived in a gated society and kids played cricket. As a kid, he could not remember names and would often forget the names of his friends, but I observed that he could remember names of each cricketer."

Making waves: Karthik Meiyappan eyes more success after his hat-trick in the T20 World Cup group game against Sri Lanka. GETTY IMAGES

Karthik's father Meiyappan Palaniappan, a club-level cricketer, thought it would be a wise decision to send his son to a cricket coaching centre

Karthik's father, Meiyappan Palaniappan – a club-level cricketer – thought it would be a "wise decision to send the kid to a cricket coaching centre".

Selvi was initially hesitant, but hailing from a family of cricketers - two of her brothers also played club cricket in Tamil Nadu - she gave in. "Initially, I was against his decision because I did not know whether he was good enough to play for India. Back in those days, there was no IPL, and we did not know whether he would make it to the UAE team either. So, I wanted him to have a Plan B," Selvi says.

So, after completing school, Karthik pursued accountancy in college. "When he made it to the UAE U-19 team, we realised that he had potential. His dad was very supportive and even ensured that he got good advice from a few cricketers in India," Selvi says.

In 2016, Karthik travelled to Chennai to train under the watchful eyes of former India cricketers Laxman Sivaramakrishnan and M. Venkataramana. "I have known the family for years because Karthik's father and I played club cricket together in Madurai, so a few years ago, he came here to train for a few days," Venkataramana, who is now the coach of Tamil Nadu, says.

While that trip was about guiding him with his action and fine tuning a few other issues, Venkataramana again worked with Karthik earlier this year, after he was named in the UAE side for the T20 World Cup qualifying rounds.

"He came to Chennai for about 15 days. We worked little bit on his alignment and release points and the boy was very sincere," Venkataramana says.

With a World Cup hat-trick in the bag, Karthik and his family hopes for a brighter turn to his career – maybe even an IPL contract with the Chennai Super Kings.

Shri Narendra Modi
Honourable Prime Minister of India

"Let's celebrate Festival of Lights
Deepavali
through Lighting Lamps"

Shri Basavaraj Bommai
Honourable Chief Minister of Karnataka

On this Deepavali, let's light Environment-friendly clay lamps and minimize the bursting of crackers. Deepavali is the festival of lights, Let us avoid Air & Noise pollution.

Directives of Hon'ble Supreme Court

- Bursting crackers on Deepavali is permitted from 8PM to 10AM only.
- Bursting of crackers causing noise more than 125 dB(AI) is prohibited
- Only approved Green Crackers are allowed.

String Fireworks are prohibited.

Shri Anand Singh
Honourable Minister of Tourism, Ecology and Environment, Govt. of Karnataka attending the Department Program

Wishing you all
a very happy and safe
Deepavali

Let the home glow brightly with line of lamps.

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board
"Parisara Bhavan", #49, Church Street,'
Bengaluru - 560 001, Karnataka State, India
Phone No.: 080-25581383, 9113, 9114
E-mail : contact@kspcb.gov.in Website : www.kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

"Saving the country's forests, wildlife and rivers together"
-It is a constitutional fundamental duty of every Indian.

Dr. Shanth A. Thimmaiah
Chairman
Karnataka State Pollution Control Board

The King at his royal best

Numero Uno: Virat Kohli became the highest run-scorer in T20Is during India's dramatic win over Pakistan in the Super-12 stage of the ICC T20 World Cup at the MCG on Sunday. Kohli's unbeaten 82 off 53 balls took his tally to 3,794 in 102 innings at an average of 51.97. He has made one century and 34 half-centuries for the Men in Blue in the shortest format. GETTY IMAGES

Varane still hopeful of making it to World Cup

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Manchester United's France defender Raphael Varane is less seriously injured than feared and still hopes to make the World Cup, a source close to the player told said on Sunday.

Varane, 29, left the pitch in tears with a leg injury during United's 1-1 draw against Chelsea on Saturday after falling awkwardly in a challenge with Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang. There were fears the injury could rule him out of the World Cup which kicks off on November 20 but the source said a scan on Sunday had been "positive".

United must end relationship with Ronaldo, insists Neville

He is going to have to go somewhere else and play every week because he can't accept being on the bench, says the club's former defender

FOOTBALL

Reuters
LONDON

Cristiano Ronaldo's fractious second spell at Manchester United "has to end" as soon as possible, according to the club's former defender Gary Neville.

The Portuguese forward, who recently scored his 700th career goal, has been largely consigned to the bench under new manager Erik ten Hag this season.

He was left out of the squad for Saturday's draw at Chelsea in the Premier League after his petulant reaction to being an unused substitute in midweek against Tottenham Hotspur.

With United showing encouraging signs of progress under Ten Hag, Neville believes the Ronaldo situation must be resolved.

Plain truth: Former United defender Neville says the club is better off without Ronaldo and ten Hag knows that. REUTERS

"Cristiano Ronaldo is going to have to go somewhere else and play every week because he can't accept being on the bench," Neville told Sky Sports. "That's fine, but end it this week or create a truce to get to the World Cup and then end it. It has to end."

Ronaldo walked down the tunnel minutes before the end of United's 2-0 win over Tottenham and left the ground, a conduct Neville claims was unacceptable.

"That's the second time Cristiano Ronaldo has left Old Trafford and got in his car before his team have got back into the changing room," Neville said.

"I have to say, as someone in the dressing room, it's something that's unacceptable. When you look at whether Cristiano should be selected, Manchester United are better without him – and Erik ten Hag knows that.

"The only thing that Cristiano and the club can do is get together in the next week and end the relationship."

Another former United defender, Jaap Stam, said he understood Ronaldo's frustration but said the 37-year-old is in danger of undermining his legacy.

"It's not fair to him to be remembered for this situation. He's been world-class, I still think he is world-class," Stam said.